

Greek ships leave Cyprus for Tripoli

NICOSIA (R) — Five Greek ships sailing to evacuate Yasser Arafat and his men from the besieged port of Tripoli put to sea Monday night, commanders on board told Reuters. In a ship-to-ship handover at 8.15 p.m. (1815 GMT), the commander of the French aircraft carrier Clemenceau, along with three Corvettes is accompanying the Greek evacuation fleet. The operation has just begun and the fleet was bound for Tripoli. The French commander said: "The five Greek ships which will carry out the rescue mission to Tripoli are sailing now." He declined to say if guarantees for the ships' safety had been given by parties involved in the operation. But the senior commander of the Greek fleet, Kyriacos Mouchatas, said in another ship-to-ship call that the Greek government had told him through the Merchant Marine Ministry that guarantees had been obtained for a safe passage.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: صحيفة يومية سياسية مستقلة تُنشر من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية



Today 14-page special

PLO groups call for dialogue

DAMASCUS (R) — Four Palestinian groups Monday called for an urgent top-level meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to discuss ways of resolving the inter-Palestinian crisis through "democratic dialogue." The statement followed a meeting of leaders of three guerrilla groups and the Palestinian Communist Party, and came a day after Palestinian rebels called on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to resign all his posts. It was signed by Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party.

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Egypt to receive only injured fighters

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Prime Minister Fuad Mubarak said Monday Egypt would welcome only wounded Palestinian guerrillas evacuated from north Lebanon. He told the people's assembly: "We will only accept wounded Palestinians... Egypt will never be the refuge for other guerrillas evacuated from Lebanon as this would lead to the destruction of the Palestinian cause..." "We do not want to attract one Palestinian faction as others have done... we support the Palestinian legitimate leadership."

Mubarak sends message to Reagan

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali left here Monday on his way to Washington with a message from President Hosni Mubarak to President Reagan. Foreign Ministry officials said the message explained Egypt's position on the latest Middle East developments, but they gave no details.

Palme to renew Gulf mediation

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, the U.N. special representative trying to end the war between Iran and Iraq, is ready to make a new bid to end the conflict. A U.N. spokesman said Monday. Spokesman Francois Giuliani said that "all possibilities are being explored and none is excluded."

French troops train Lebanese division

BEIRUT (R) — The first Lebanese tank battalion trained by French paratroopers on the use of French AMX-13 tanks graduated Monday, a French military spokesman said. He said a team of French paratroopers presented the Lebanese soldiers with their diplomas at a military parade held in a barracks near Beirut. The spokesman said France will now begin training gunners for the Lebanese army's heavy artillery.

E.C. accepts Greenland's pullout

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (E.C.) agreed Monday to respect Greenland's wish to leave the group by January 1985 and will try to complete withdrawal talks by the end of March, diplomats said. Greenland entered the community as an integral part of Denmark in 1973 but it became a semi-autonomous province of Denmark in 1979 and voted last year to withdraw from the Common Market.

Monaco princess to marry Italian

MONACO (R) — Princess Caroline of Monaco will marry Stefano Casiraghi, son of a wealthy Italian family, at the royal palace here on Dec. 29th, a spokesman for Prince Rainier announced Monday. The 23-year-old Casiraghi's family made its fortune in oil, heating and property. Princess Caroline's previous marriage to French businessman Philippe Junot lasted only two years.

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Israel intensifies bombardments Arafat postpones Tripoli evacuation

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Sunday postponed the evacuation of his besieged forces from Tripoli after Israel intensified its bombardments of the northern Lebanese port.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman said he had also instructed the PLO representative at the United Nations to lodge a protest with the Security Council against Israeli attacks on the port.

Mr. Arafat appeared to be blocked in Tripoli by Israeli gunboats after organising an international operation to withdraw his 4,000 fighters by sea with the symbolic protection of the United Nations.

Mr. Arafat made the decision to postpone the evacuation, scheduled to begin Monday, soon after Israeli gunboats rammed home Israel's displeasure at the international rescue operation by again shelling the Tripoli docks.

A dawn bombardment set a small cargo ship ablaze and sank another only 12 hours after an attack at dusk Sunday set a dockyard warehouse on fire.

Fears of mines

An explosion in the harbour 90 minutes after Monday's shelling caused fears that the Israelis had mined its waters, a Palestinian spokesman said.

"For security reasons, Mr. Arafat then asked the Greek government to delay the arrival of an evacuation fleet of five Greek ships, escorted by three French Corvettes which has been waiting off

Cyprus to sail to Tripoli.

He had also protested to the Security Council, which has authorised the Greek ships to fly the U.N. flag as symbolic security, that the harbour had been mined.

The PLO spokesman said the Israelis might have mined the harbour with delayed-action shells from gunboats or with bombs dropped by planes that overflew Tripoli Sunday night.

The PLO leader and his men have been trapped in Tripoli for six weeks by Syrian-backed PLO rebels who consider his policies towards Israel to moderate and in November drove them from their last Lebanese bases in nearby refugee camps.

Israel, which last year forced Mr. Arafat's forces to leave Beirut in a U.S.-sponsored evacuation, has this time refused to give a formal commitment not to harass the Tripoli evacuation.

Its gunships have shelled the port and surrounding Palestinian positions seven times in 10 days, zeroing in closer to the docks each time.

Mr. Arafat told reporters the evacuation would still go ahead, but he did not say when. His spokesman, Ahmad Abdurrahman, said: "Not today, maybe tomorrow, or maybe the day after tomorrow if there are more Israeli attacks."

U.S. makes tacit appeal for safe PLO evacuation

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House appealed indirectly to Israel Monday to allow Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and his supporters to leave Tripoli after their departure was postponed under pressure from Israeli bombardments.

"We have the strong belief that a cessation of hostilities is called for and is necessary. We support the evacuation of the PLO fighters," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said. He made a similar statement last week.

Shelling of the Tripoli docks and Palestinian positions by Israeli gunboats has prevented a planned evacuation by Greek ships flying the United Nations flag. Israel has criticised the United Nations for supporting the evacuation of the PLO.

Mr. Speakes said "all parties responsible for the hostilities are aware of the American viewpoint" and the United States would continue to press its position through diplomatic channels.

U.S.-Israeli ties 'unaffected'

He said the Israeli actions would not affect the new military and political co-operation accord reached by President Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Washington last month.

"It won't affect the historic relationship. It won't affect the long-standing U.S. agreement with Israel," Mr. Speakes said.

He said the United States supported the evacuation in order to spare further suffering of the civilian population in Tripoli and because the removal of PLO troops would contribute to the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat's 4,000-member guerrilla force has been under siege for six weeks from a PLO faction supported by Syria. The two groups agreed to a ceasefire on the understanding Mr. Arafat would leave Tripoli.

PLO headquarters will remain Tunis, says Arafat

VIENNA (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday that the PLO headquarters will remain in Tunis, and added that the base for PLO military operations will be the North Yemeni capital of Sana'a.

In a statement he gave to the Viennese Profile magazine, Mr. Arafat said the evacuation of Palestinian fighters from Tripoli "does not suggest the end of the Palestinian struggle, as these fighters will continue their military training in the Arab countries they are going to until better circumstances allow them to return to Palestine."

Israel 'pleased' at delay in PLO pullout from Tripoli

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel is pleased that its naval bombardments of Palestinian positions in Tripoli have delayed the evacuation of Yasser Arafat and his fighters from the North Lebanese port, official sources said Monday.

The sources said the attacks were meant to express Israel's anger at United Nations sponsorship of the evacuation and to deter and weaken Mr. Arafat. "If we stop bombing, we are providing a cordoned area for Arafat to leave," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Shamir said on Austrian Television Sunday that the actions in Tripoli had nothing to do with the PLO evacuation but were a continuation of the struggle against the PLO. (PLO remains an enemy, says Shamir, page 2)

Other sources made clear that short of the PLO ceasing to exist, Israel was "happiest" to see a split Palestinian group fighting itself. The sources would not say whether Israel would continue to attack Arafat loyalists in Tripoli but said Israel was determined to stop Mr. Arafat coming out stronger.

Nakasone vows to continue despite election setback

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Monday he would remain in office and push ahead with controversial policies despite his stunning setback in Sunday's general election. The contest stripped Mr. Nakasone's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of its majority in parliament, leaving it dependent on support from independents to stay in power.

Mr. Nakasone admitted at a press conference that the Lockheed bribery scandal had its impact on the voters. He said that perhaps the LDP had not explained clearly enough its attitude to political ethics.

It was the Lockheed case, in which former LDP Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was convicted of taking a \$2 million bribe, that forced Mr. Nakasone to hold the election six months ahead of time.

All opinion polls predicted that his gamble would come off. But when vote counting ended Monday reliable computer projections showed the LDP had only 250 seats in the 511-member House of Representatives, seven less than enough for a bare majority and 36 less than its pre-election strength.

In its 28 years of unbroken power, the LDP had only once before falling below the bare majority line. That was in 1976 when

Wazzan seeks U.S. help

In Beirut, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan issued a public call for Washington to help Mr. Arafat's evacuation get under way and to compel Israel not to obstruct it.

He said the agreement on the Palestinians' withdrawal from Tripoli was part of an overall agreement for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

"We must help to realise it," Mr. Wazzan added. U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew made an urgent 30-minute call on Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem but the contents of their discussion were not revealed.

Weapons for Lebanese army

In Tripoli, Mr. Arafat announced he would hand over his heavy weapons to the Lebanese army before departing.

He also said the PLO was donating \$554,000 for inhabitants of Tripoli who have suffered losses as a result of the siege and for orphans at the nearby Baddawi refugee camp.

Security sources said final preparations for the evacuation were going ahead. About 300 members of the Lebanese internal security forces had deployed along the frontlines between Mr. Arafat's men and the rebels and were clearing minefields, security sources said.

Preparations for an exchange of captives between Mr. Arafat's forces and the rebels were also near completion, a Palestinian spokesman added.

Lebanese army, Druze clash

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese army clashed with Druze militiamen in the mountains south-east of Beirut Monday in the first notable violation of last Friday's ceasefire, security and Druze sources said. The clashes lasted for an hour before a local ceasefire was arranged.

An official in the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), whose fighters face the army in the mountains, said the PSP still considered Friday's truce to be in force.

The ceasefire agreement on Friday, arranged in Damascus, provided for the reopening of Beirut International Airport, which had been closed since Nov. 30.

'Greek-Cypriot soldier's killing was an accident'

NICOSIA (R) — The self-declared Turkish-Cypriot government said Monday a Turkish-Cypriot sentry accidentally shot dead a Greek-Cypriot national guard Sunday on the "green line" separating the Turkish and Greek quarters of Nicosia.

It was the second time in the last 16 months that a Greek-Cypriot national guard had been shot dead across the divide.

The minister of foreign affairs and defence of the Turkish-Cypriot administration, Necati Murr Ertegun, said in a statement confirming Sunday's incident that the Turkish-Cypriot sentry's weapon discharged accidentally.

But he said the Greek-Cypriot had been swearing at the Turkish-Cypriot sentry and threatening him with his gun. Mr. Ertegun said his government had protested 11 times in the last month to the United Nations peace-keeping force on the island about similar provocations.

"The Turkish-Cypriot authorities are sorry about the incident... everything possible will be done to prevent a recurrence... we hope that this isolated, undesirable and inadvertent incident will not be exploited and will not be used for causing tension," Mr. Ertegun said.

'No stepping down'

Asked whether he intended stepping down, he replied: "I would rather carry out my responsibility by avoiding any snag in state affairs."

Some of the Palestinians released from Israeli detention last month pose with Hani Al Hassan (sixth from left, standing) Monday after their arrival in Amman from Algeria (Photo by Youssef Al Allan)

AMMAN — A total of 43 Palestinians released by the Israeli authorities in an exchange last month of prisoners between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) arrived Monday in Amman from Algeria.

Hani Al Hassan, a senior political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who received the freed detainees at the Queen Alia International Airport, said that the "release of the Palestinian heroes proves that the PLO maintains a strong political influence despite all conspiracies against it."

43 Palestinian detainees released under PLO-Israel deal arrive in Amman

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

The Palestinian official said that the "success of the prisoner exchange operation also indicates that Mr. Arafat still holds the initiative on the Palestinian arena."

"Moreover," Mr. Hassan said, "despite the Israeli intransigence and determination not to recognise the PLO, it was forced to negotiate with the organisation on the exchange."

Commenting on the fact that Israel has withheld a number of Palestinians who were supposed to have been freed under the exchange deal, Mr. Hassan said the PLO "still has cards in its hands," in an apparent reference to the two Israeli soldiers held by the radical faction of the PLO, the

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

Mr. Hassan said France which played a major role in negotiations prior to the exchange "was deceived" by the Israelis.

Referring to the United Nations' approval to fly its flag on Greek ships which would evacuate Palestinian fighters from Tripoli, north Lebanon, Mr. Hassan said that it reflects the international recognition of the legitimacy of the PLO leadership.

The freed Palestinians' arrival in Amman signifies "the deep-rooted Palestinian-Jordanian relations which no conspiracy can ever sway," Mr. Hassan added.

Rumsfeld pays surprise visit to Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — United States Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld arrived unexpectedly in Baghdad Monday, the first visit to Iraq by a senior U.S. official for 16 years.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Mr. Rumsfeld's arrival in a one-line dispatch without mentioning the purpose of his visit.

Iraq severed diplomatic relations with the U.S. after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, accusing Washington of assisting Israel.

The U.S. later established a section to handle American interests at the Belgian embassy in Baghdad.

The Iraqi News Agency said Mr. Rumsfeld was received at Baghdad airport by the head of protocol of the Foreign Ministry.

Earlier, Mr. Rumsfeld left Riyadh after talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia as part of efforts to allay Arab fears over a recent U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation

pact. Mr. Rumsfeld arrived in the Saudi capital Sunday night after a visit to Egypt.

In Cairo, he held similar talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who later said the explanation he received about the U.S.-Israeli pact was "convincing to a certain extent" but that more discussions were needed.

Mr. Mubarak, who has received two letters from U.S. President Reagan explaining the pact, sent his Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali to Washington Monday with a reply.

The Saudi Press Agency reported only that King Fahd met the U.S. envoy but gave no details.

U.S. embassy officials said Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal attended the meeting.

Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, the kingdom's defence minister, was quoted Monday as saying the

U.S.-Israeli strategic pact was an "improper step and Washington remains under the shadow of Israeli illusions."

In an interview with the daily Al Sharq Al Awsat, published in London and Jeddah, Prince Sultan said Arab countries did not want to fight Israel.

The U.S.-Israeli pact, reached in Washington last month between Mr. Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, provided for more sophisticated weapons for Israel and joint American-Israeli exercises.

The pact, at first described by Mr. Mubarak as "disastrous," provoked anger throughout the Arab World.

Washington, however, said the pact was not directed against Arab countries.

Mr. Rumsfeld's current tour was aimed at explaining Washington's position.

Ozal outlines programme, offers Greece friendship

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, outlining his new government's programme to parliament, pledged Monday to lower inflation and establish a free market economy in Turkey.

Mr. Ozal also offered "the hand of friendship" to neighbouring Greece, with which Turkey has long had bitter disputes over Cyprus, territorial rights in the Aegean Sea and other issues, and said he wanted to strengthen ties with the United States.

The bulk of Mr. Ozal's 70-page programme was devoted to an ambitious plan by his Conservative Motherland Party to turn Turkey's state-dominated economy into a free market system. The Motherland Party won a parliamentary majority in last month's general elections, which

ended three years of military rule. On foreign policy, Mr. Ozal said: "Our government is extending to Greece the hand of friendship." Long-term interests of the two countries, both members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), were the same and disputes could be settled "by peaceful means and on an equitable basis."

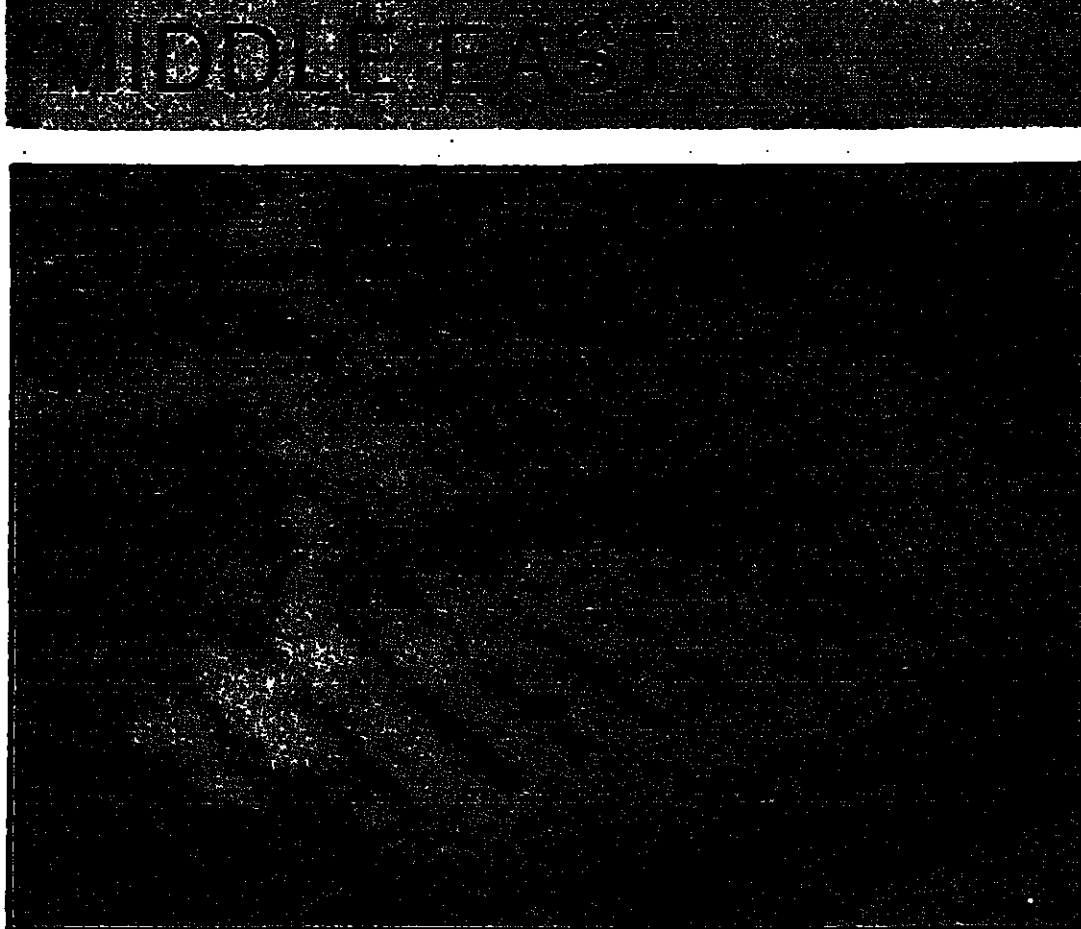
He said he wanted to strengthen already close ties with the United States, develop relations with Europe and the Middle East and have "stable relations" with the Soviet Union.

On domestic policy, Mr. Ozal said martial law, still in force throughout the country despite the end of military rule, would be lifted gradually and priority would be given to boosting the security and armed forces.

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One of three batches of explosives and weapons discovered by security forces after Sunday's arrests of those suspected of involvement in last Monday's bomb blasts in Kuwait (A.P. wirephoto)

Kuwaitis divided on how to react to bomb wave

KUWAIT — Kuwait appears divided on how to react to the wave of bomb attacks which struck the country last Monday.

Parliamentarians known for their opposition views fear that over reaction may lead to curbs on political activities and the freedom of the press. Supporters of the Islamic movement in Kuwait believe there may be a crackdown on their activities.

In contrast, conservative Kuwaitis and merchants are saying that the country's security needs to be tightened, so that Arab and Middle Eastern problems will not be imported into Kuwait.

Too many factions have an interest in making the Gulf unstable, they say.

The Islamic movement has become particularly powerful in the last 18 months in Kuwait. In particular, its seven members three of whom are Shias, have proved to be

a highly effective lobby advocating social reforms.

In addition, the country has several Islamic reformist clubs and cultural societies which provide an umbrella for the movement's activities. Despite Western preoccupation with Shias fundamentalism, it is the Sunni version, the Muslim Brotherhood, which has the greatest support in the Gulf states.

This movement, grouped together in Kuwait under the Jama'iyah Islah (The Reformist Society), believe that rule by families is anti-Islamic.

Until now, members of the movement have been relatively free to express these views publicly — at least within the confines of the university. Now, however,

they believe that last Monday's bomb attack will be used by the government "as a smokescreen for a crackdown."

Outspoken parliamentarian Khalid Al Wazmi said: "The Islamic group is now feeling under attack. These car bomb explosions will discredit the movement and I think the government will draw up laws about political meetings and perhaps even sign the security pact with the GCC states."

Many members of parliament in Kuwait, not just the opposition members, fear the implications of the Gulf security pact, and believe it will violate Kuwait's political and territorial independence from Saudi Arabia.

The Gulf Treaty would allow security forces of any GCC state to enter another in pursuit of "criminals" without prior permission up to a distance of 20 kilometres. — Financial Times.

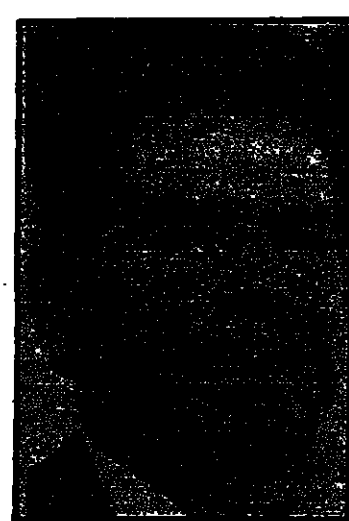
Reagan links Syrians to MNF withdrawal

WASHINGTON (R) — The Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon could be withdrawn in 1984 if Syria gave assurances its troops would pull out of the country, President Reagan said in an interview.

He told U.S. News and World Report magazine that withdrawal of U.S. Marines and other troops next year was still a realistic goal because there had been progress in building up the Lebanese army to take control of the country. Rival Lebanese factions had also agreed to recognise President Amin Gemayel's government.

He said further progress hinged particularly on Syria, which agreed to withdraw from Lebanon if Israel left as well but then reversed its position.

"I don't say that the Multinational Force has to stay until all those foreign forces are out. I



Ronald Reagan

think that even if they gave an assurance that they're going to go and start the process, maybe we could then leave," the president said.

N. Ireland leader to send team to Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Northern Ireland Protestant leader, the Rev. Ian Paisley, intends to send a parliamentary delegation of his followers to Israel to learn about "counter-terror techniques."

Israeli Labour Party Member of Parliament Michael Bar-Zohar, revealed this to reporters in the Knesset, and said he spoke to Rev. Paisley and some of his followers in Belfast last week.

Mr. Bar-Zohar said he also met with Ulster Catholic leaders.

Mr. Bar-Zohar said Rev. Paisley will have his aides contact the Israeli embassy in London this week. They will request top-level briefings with police and military commanders on Israel's anti-terror measures, during the course of what would be a private visit. They will also ask for a guided

tour of the security fences along the borders with Jordan and Lebanon.

Mr. Bar-Zohar told reporters: "Paisley is absolutely convinced that a security fence must be built along the border with Ireland to prevent IRA terrorists crossing freely and smuggling arms. He wants to see why Israel's fences have proven so effective."

Mr. Bar-Zohar visited Britain as a guest of the Foreign Office, meeting parliamentary figures in Westminster, senior Foreign Office and War Office officials, and spending time with a paratrooper unit.

Mr. Bar-Zohar added: "Paisley wants to get arms officially for Protestant self-defence militias. But we know what happens here when civilians get guns."

Former Israeli colonel denounces occupation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The situation of Arabs living under Israeli rule is reminiscent of that of Jews who lived under persecution in various places in the past, Dov Yirmiya, a former army Lt. Colonel, told an audience of 150 supporters of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

Mr. Yirmiya was accepting the ACR's human rights prize, awarded annually to coincide with the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights on Dec. 10, 1947. As of this year, the prize is also granted in memory of Emil Grunzweig, the Peace Now activist murdered in a grenade attack on a demonstration in Jerusalem last February.

Speaking at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, Mr. Yirmiya said that the ultimate test of Is-

rael's principles is the state's "treatment of the Arabs who live among us." But the government, he contended, "is based on national chauvinism and religious fanaticism," and is leading the two peoples, with their common future towards an abyss.

Mr. Yirmiya quit his job of organising relief for civilians in southern Lebanon at the beginning of the war last year, accusing the authorities of not really wanting to help. He condemned the war.

Mr. Yirmiya, who lives in Nahariya, near the Lebanese border, organised his own effort to aid Lebanese and Palestinians after leaving active Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) duty. He was later dismissed from the army for publicly airing his criticism. — The Jerusalem Post

'Israeli commanders at fault for Tyre attack'

TEL AVIV (R) — A military probe into last month's suicide truck bombing which killed 61 people at Israeli headquarters in Tyre, Lebanon has found that local commanders failed to carry out all recommended security precautions, according to the inquiry report.

An inquiry commission appointed by the Israeli defence ministry said Sunday only some of the security measures had been taken and that these had proved inadequate to prevent the blast when a truck packed with explosives was

driven into the headquarters. The report said guards at the base had not been properly briefed on tactics to stop vehicles entering the area and that two guards were absent on Nov. 4, the day of the attack.

No mention was made in the report about any action to be taken against the base commanders.

The findings were submitted to the cabinet Sunday and a government spokesman said the army command would decide on any disciplinary measures to be taken.

Shamir vows to fight PLO

VIENNA (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel's action against the PLO in Tripoli had nothing to do with the evacuation of Palestinian guerrillas from Lebanon, but was a continuation of the struggle against the PLO.

"Israel has not undertaken anything against the evacuation," Mr. Shamir said in an interview with Austrian television. "We are fighting against the PLO because the PLO is our most extreme enemy."

It was Israel's responsibility to make any further activities of the Palestine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) impossible, he said.

"Our steps against the PLO have nothing to do with the evacuation. This does not interest us. We fight the PLO everywhere," Mr. Shamir said.

Four Israeli gunboats Sunday bombed positions of some 4,000 guerrillas loyal to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, awaiting a Greek flotilla to evacuate them under French navy escort.

"For us the PLO is an enemy organisation and we will fight it wherever we can," Mr. Shamir added. "We will never stop fighting the PLO."

Cairo University mellows with ag

By Hamza Hendawi

CAIRO (R) — The fires of revolt seem to have flickered out on the campus of Cairo University, once a hotbed of dissent.

Academics at the university, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this month, say the 100,000 students enrolled there today prefer picnic parties to agitation.

Police, both uniformed and in plain clothes, are much in evidence on the campus. But bearded Muslim fundamentalists, who took over domination of student politics from the left in the 1970s, are no longer seen after a crackdown that followed the 1981 assassination by extremists of President Anwar Sadat.

The subdued atmosphere contrasts with the university's history. Its founding in 1908 coincided with the nationalist movement led by Mustafa Kamel against British rule. The 1940s were marked by bloody clashes between police and Cairo university students rioting against King Farouk, corruption and the British.

Left-wing student activists of the day hailed the "free officers" revolution that, in 1952, toppled the monarchy and brought Gamal Abdel Nasser to power. Yet, by the late 1960s, the students were out on the streets again, protesting that Nasser was too lenient with generals blamed for Egypt losing the 1967 war with Israel.

Today's students must show their identity cards to police at the campus gates. Failure to produce them means the day is spent at

home.

Most changes in the students' lives followed the 1981 assassination of Mr. Sadat by extremists.

By 1981, fundamentalists had supplanted the left in the vanguard of Egyptian student politics. Hundreds of fundamentalists were rounded up after Mr. Sadat was gunned down at a military parade.

Of 300 extremists now being tried for allegedly plotting the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak's government, about 80 per cent are students.

At the start of the 1981-82 academic year, Cairo, with other Egyptian universities, banned Muslim students in traditional white gowns (galabiyas) from the campus and, as one student put it, strict discipline was enforced "to ensure that students remain students."

Student unions, academics said, are now barred from discussing politics in their meetings. They are assigned to worry about student welfare and organise parties and picnics.

University President Hassan Hamdi says students and teachers are free to join Egypt's legitimate political parties, provided they do not bring ideological debate onto the campus.

Mr. Hamdi's office said he was too busy to be interviewed by Reuters. But in early December he told the weekly magazine October that he thought the existing parties were a sufficient outlet for student political convictions.

A U.S.-educated vice-dean told Reuters the ban on political ac-

Yugoslavia calls for ne Mideast id

CAIRO (R) — Visiting Foreign Minister Lazar said Monday fresh ideas needed to resolve the Middle East conflict and that Palestinians should start talks to settle differences.

Mr. Mojsov told reporters meeting Egyptian President Mubarak: "Fresh ideas are needed for resolving in a just and able way the Middle East between the Arab states act."

Mr. Mojsov, who arrived Monday for three days with Egyptian officials, did not say whether he was carrying a message for tackling the East problem.

"We expect the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) the fighting between the factions, to meet together, to have a democratic dialogue, to solve their differences, to strengthen their unity to present PLO role as the sole representative of the Palestinian people," he said.

Mr. Mojsov said his talks with Mr. Mubarak covered international problems, bilateral relations and the Non-Aligned movement.

West German minister proposes security cooperation with UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Visiting West German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Jürgen Muellemann, said Monday he had proposed mutual security cooperation between his country and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Mr. Muellemann did not elaborate on his talks with UAE officials, but he told reporters: "The security issue is a matter of interest to both countries and we have discussed what role West Germany can play in this respect."

He said he also discussed with his UAE counterpart, Rashid

Abdullah Al-Nuaimi, ways to promote cooperation between the European Community (E.C.) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The Council groups Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

UAE foreign ministry officials said Mr. Nuaimi expressed concern over the recent U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation pact, which he said could destabilise security in the Middle East.

Mr. Muellemann arrived in the UAE Sunday and leaves Tuesday for Jatar.

Iran denies playing part in bomb wave

WASHINGTON (R) — Iran's ambassador to the United Nations Sunday denied his government's involvement in recent Middle East bombings and accused the Reagan administration of making Iran a scapegoat for such incidents.

Ambassador Said Rajaei Khorassani in two television interviews reiterated the Khomeini government's denials of involvement and challenged U.S. officials to prove their charges that Iranian-trained or inspired Islamic fanatics were linked to last week's suicide bombings of the American and French embassies in Kuwait.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS	
JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL 17:30 Koran 17:45 Cartoons 18:00 Children's Programme 18:30 Documentaries 19:00 Programmes Review 19:10 Programme on Sports 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Special Panel Discussion 21:10 Arabic Series 22:10 Local Programme from the Jerusalem Festival 23:10 News in Arabic FOREIGN CHANNEL 18:00 French Programme 19:00 News in French 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Comedy: Hi De Hi Eps. 5 21:00 Towards 2000 21:10 Secret Army - Eps. 10 22:00 News in English 22:15 Magnum: Distant Relative RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 4560 KHz. SW 07:00 Morning Show 07:30 News Bulletin 08:00 News Summary 08:30 Oriental Foods 09:00 Morning Show 10:00 Pop Session 11:00 News Summary 12:00 Pop Session 12:30 News Summary 13:00 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instrumentals 14:30 Adventure Tales 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:05 Instrumentals: Old Favorites 17:00 Science Reports 18:00 News Summary 18:45 Top Twenty 19:00 Newsdesk 19:30 Date with a Star		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * Orientalist paintings, at the Alia Art Gallery. * Paintings by Yusef Hussein, at the Alia Art Gallery. FILM * "Pierre et Paul" at the French Video Centre. ABC NEWS * At the American Centre at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 British Council 36147-8 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Haya Arts Centre 66519 Hussein Youth City 66718 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555 MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and		AMMAN AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 07:00 Cairo (EA) 07:05 Amman (KA) 07:10 Jeddah (RJ) 07:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 07:20 Beirut (RJ) 07:25 Dhahran, Riyadh (Saudi) 07:30 Kuwait (KAC) 07:35 Baghdad (RJ) 07:40 Damascus (RJ) 07:45 Beirut (RJ) 07:50 Amman (KA) 07:55 New York, Vienna (RJ) 08:00 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ) 08:05 Beirut (RJ) 08:10 London, Paris (RJ) 08:15 Tripoli (RJ) 08:20 Athens (OA) 08:25 Rome, Damascus (Alitalia) 08:30 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ) 08:35 Cairo (RJ) 08:40 Baghdad (RJ) 08:45 Cairo (EA) DEPARTURES: 08:45 Cairo (RJ) 08:50 Beirut (RJ) 08:55 Damascus (RJ) 09:00 Amman (KA) 09:05 Cairo (EA) 09:10 Beirut (MEA) 09:15 Athens, Amsterdam (KLM) 09:20 Tripoli (RJ) 09:25 Cairo, Tunis (Tunisair) 09:30 Vienna, New York (RJ) 09:35 Athens, Copenhagen (RJ) 09:40 Cairo (RJ) 09:45 Riyadh, Dhahran (Saudi) 09:50 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 09:55 Larnaca (RJ) 10:00 Cairo (EA) 10:05 Kuwait (KAC) 10:10 Bahrain, Muscat (KLM) 10:15 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)		EMERGENCIES * Ambulance 193, 75111 Fire, fire, police 199 Blood bank 75121 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 23800-3 Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 56390-1 Electric Power Co. 36381-2 Municipal water service 71125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 81381-32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4 Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 42451 J. Amman Maternity 42362 Madhat, J. Amman 26141 Palestine, Shamsani 664171-4 Shamsani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Muhsin Hospital 667227-9 The Islamic, Abdali 665292 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101-3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111 Army, Marjeh 91611 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Youssef Daoud Rashed 96301 MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple (Double Red) 300 / 250 Apple (Golden) 300 / 250 Apple (Starline) 300 / 250 Apple (Smith) 220 / 180 Apple (local) 220 / 180 Banana 270 / 220 Banana (Mukhammad) 230 / 200 Beans 180 / 150 Cabbage 50 / 30 Carrot 50 / 30 Cauliflower (white) 50 / 30 Cucumber (large) 130 / 100 Cucumber (small) 270 / 200 Dates 180 / 150 Eggplant (large) 70 / 50 Eggplant (small) 130 / 100 Figs 400 / 300 Garlic 360 / 320 Grapes (white) 700 / 600 Grapes (black) 700 / 600 Grapefruit 100 / 70 Guava 400 / 300 Lemon 130 / 100 Marrow (large) 50 / 40 Marrow (small) 80 / 60 Mallow 160 / 140 Olives 400 / 350 Onion (dry) 150 / 120 Okra 150 / 120 Oranges (Abu Surra) 230 / 200 Oranges (Shammouni) 160 / 120 Peas 620 / 550 Pepper (sweet) 150 / 120 Pepper (hot green) 150 / 120 Potatoes 180 / 150	

Egypt, Jordan to hold trade protocol talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt will this week hold talks aimed at bolstering bilateral trade and economic co-operation. The talks will involve an Egyptian delegation led by minister of economy, Dr. Mustafa Al Sa'ad, who is expected here Tuesday.

The delegation will represent the Egyptian ministries of economy, foreign affairs, trade and finance, according to a report in the Jordanian press Sunday.

"My visit to Amman lies within the framework of Egypt's contacts with various Arab states to bolster trade and economic co-operation with them," the minister was quoted as saying.

But he said that in Amman he will conduct talks that will end in the signing of an agreement on promoting bilateral trade.

Among the major topics to be discussed is the Egypt's "consumption tax" imposed on Jordanian and other countries' imports, Dr. Sa'ad said.

In fact, he explained, this tax is also imposed on Egyptian made commodities sold on the home market and there is no way that this tax can be excluded from goods that we import from Jordan or other countries. Any agreement with Jordan will not include a provision for the cancelling of this tax, he said.

Other subjects to be covered,

the minister said, include increasing the volume of trade between Jordan and Egypt, the transfers remittances earned by Egyptians living in Jordan and possible joint economic ventures between Egypt and Jordan that might be launched to serve both countries' interests.

Egypt will also bring up the subject of maritime trade which entails the shipping of goods from Egyptian ports to Aqaba where they can proceed to Gulf countries by land, according to the Egyptian minister.

He said that Egypt would like to carry out moves to rebuild its fences with the Arab World on both the political and the economic fronts, and "that is why I intend to make similar visits to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries."

Dr. Sa'ad revealed that he will also carry a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to His Majesty King Hussein.

According to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, the two sides will discuss the possible exchange of Jordanian fertilisers for Egyptian rice, bilateral cooperation in air transport and the opening of trade centres in each other's capitals.

The Jordanian side at the meetings will be led by Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour, Petra added.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran (front row far left) makes a point in Monday's National Consultative Council debate about agriculture in Jordan (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

NCC debates company office proposal

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — National Consultative Council (NCC) member Faisal Kana'an Monday called on leading industries to transfer their head offices from Amman to their factory sites around the country.

Dr. Kana'an said that leading industries should emulate the Jordanian Cement Factories example of transferring its headquarters from the capital to the town of Fuhais.

He said that such a step has had positive consequences for the industry as well as the areas where the factory is located.

The transfer, he explained, will

increase the interaction between the administration and the workers in the firms themselves, thus raising productivity of them.

But, according to Dr. Kana'an, the areas where the factories are cited that will benefit the most. He said that the transfer will contribute to the limitation of labour migration from rural areas to Amman and to the development of the public, social, educational and health services in these areas.

The proposals provoked a debate among council members who were divided between those who doubted the feasibility of its implementation and those who favoured the idea and thought it

could work.

It was pointed out that it is almost impossible to transfer such offices from Amman because of the lack of tele and other necessary communications services in other towns and areas especially those that are far from the capital.

Supporters of the proposals, however, said that this problem could be overcome because any firm can ask for the installation of communications services, regardless of its location. The government, they added, usually ensures the extension of such services.

The proposal was referred to the government for consideration.

Council body attacks agricultural credit system

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Consultative Council (NCC) Monday urged the government to reassess the functions of public agricultural institutions and to raise credit appropriations for farmers to cover the rise in living expenses.

In a discussion of recommendations presented by the council's Agricultural Committee two weeks ago, members pointed out that loans granted to farmers by credit institutions are not enough to support agricultural development in the country.

According to the committee's report, loans given to farmers by commercial banks amounted to JD 17 million in 1980, while loans from public institutions did not exceed JD 7 million.

There are three government and semi-government bodies that give loans to farmers. These are the Agricultural Credit Association (ACC), the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and the Jordanian Farmers Association (JFA).

The committee's report accused these institutions of participating in activities that are not related to their basic functions. The report claimed that the JCO conducts its marketing and trade operations on a commercial and not a co-operative basis.

The committee recommended that the objectives and means of these institutions should be re-defined by the government.

It also called on the government to increase credit to farmers to cover 100 per cent of the cost of their individual enterprises as this would free farmers from having to resort to commercial loans at rates of interest that marginalise such projects.

It then suggested that the system of credit should be modified to allow more small farmers to benefit.

The recommendations were endorsed by the council along with

other suggestions concerning agricultural research, the pricing policy of agricultural products and policy relating to the export and import of agricultural products.

Research

Agricultural research in Jordan began in the 1960s but has since faced a number of obstacles including a deficiency in financing, a failure to define research priorities and the fact that no one body is responsible for that area thus making such a field dependent on individual efforts, the report said.

The committee suggested the foundation of an agricultural research centre, with financing assured from a fund set up by the government, with the aim of formulating a national research policy on agricultural issues.

Pricing

The pricing of agricultural products was severely criticised by the committee as well as by members who said that the present pricing system "does not satisfy the citizen's nutritional food needs, nor does it encourage farmers to produce more."

The low prices paid for agricultural produce and the lack of comprehensive agricultural policy that regulates the planting of products according to the demand for them on the basis of market research has led to an over production of some agricultural products which consequently has resulted in a loss to the farmers.

The committee recommended two alternatives. Firstly the can-

cellation of "the compulsory pricing system" and an attempt to determine prices according to supply and demand.

Secondly, if the government continues to favour fixed prices, it has to consider the costs of production in determining these prices. If this alternative is adopted by the government, the committee pointed out, prices should be announced on a weekly rather than a daily basis.

But Prime Minister Mudar Badran disagreed with the committee's observations saying that price fixing is applied to traders and not farmers, apparently disagreeing with the committee's conclusion that the pricing system is inflicting harm on farmers.

He also explained that the Ministry of Supply should determine prices according to the market but "supervising the selling process only", thus there is "no compulsory pricing system," he said.

Mr. Badran said that the government was able to control the price of tomatoes when the commodity was chronically over produced two years ago by purchasing the excess of the product. He added, however, that the government cannot control the price of agricultural produce that cannot be processed.

Exports

The council also called for an increase in the export of agricultural goods and the banning of imports of what it called "luxury fruits and vegetables".

The committee's report also urged the government to prohibit the importation of agricultural products if they are to be stored and then sold in competition with locally produced goods when they come onto the market.

Mr. Badran commented that the government has signed agreements not to allow certain agricultural products into the country.

The council will continue its debate on agriculture next week.

New envoys present credentials to Hassan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday noon received at the Royal Court the credentials of newly-appointed Tunisian Ambassador to Jordan Marwan Ibn Al Arabi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Dimitar Yordanov Tchordadjiev and Philippines Ambassador Cesare C.

Pastor.

The three ambassadors were greeted separately on their arrival at the Royal Court by a guard of honour and given an official reception.

The ceremony was attended by Court Minister Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and Royal Court Secretary-General Yussef Buran.

Tal outlines side effects of expansion in education

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Sa'id Al Tal said that the "quantitative change in the educational process in Jordan over the last two decades has created two problems regarding the quality of education on the one hand and the relation between education and the requirements of society on the other."

In a meeting of senior officials at the Directorate of Planning and Educational Research, presided over by the minister, Dr. Tal said that the educational process in the

country had made a positive contribution in recent years, a fact that is evident in the growing interest shown by various social strata in education.

The ministry has made every effort to overcome the difficulties resulting from the expansion in education, he said.

The issue has been brought to the directorate of planning in order to see how best to develop the quality of education in Jordan, Dr. Tal added.

One Siamese twin saved in brain link operation

By Rabab Mango

AMMAN — Surgeons at Al Hussein Medical Centre spent twelve hours in the operating theatre separating two female babies born with one head, a case medical records have not registered since 1918.

Neurosurgeon Adel Shraideh said he had consulted the seventh conference on neurosurgery about the case in which the brains of the two girls were connected.

Scientifically, he said, both girls

had no chance of survival due to their deformity, and the operation, carried out on Dec. 8, was aimed at saving the life of one of them, with priority being given to the healthier of the two.

Dr. Shraideh said the weaker child regrettably could not survive for more than six hours, while Rasha, the other girl, is constantly improving after 11 days in intensive care.

He expressed the hope that this first surgery of its kind in the world continue to prove a success.



Officers of the Public Security Directorate listen to a sermon Monday as part of celebrations organised by the directorate to mark the birthday anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad (Petra photo)

Prophet's birthday celebrations continue

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian cities and institutions Monday continued celebrating Prophet Mohammad's birthday anniversary.

Here in Amman, the Public Security Directorate organised a massive ceremony attended by directorate corps members and Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs representatives.

Public relations head in the directorate, Col. Ahmad Al Khasawneh said the directorate has regularly celebrated this and other religious occasions, believing that such a tradition strengthens its members' Islamic faith and helps them to carry out their duties conscientiously.

In Salt, a massive gathering was held at Oqbah Ibn Nafi' School, where Balqa Governor Mohammed Al Khatib talked of Prophet Mohammad's exemplary behaviour and his sacrifices for mankind's happiness. He urged Muslims to adhere to the more essential aspects of the Islamic

faith and to refrain from superficial appearances.

Salt Mayor Abdul Razzaq Al Nsour also addressed the gathering, and the Federation of Jordanian Women organised a ceremony at the Salt Community College to mark the occasion.

In Irbid, a religious festival was organised at the Irbid Industrial School where Armed Forces Assistant Multi-General Ali Al Faqr reminded the presence of the glorious struggle of the Prophet in creating the new Islamic society. Other speakers urged a return to Islam and increased commitment in both words and deeds to the provisions of the Islamic doctrine.

In Ramtha, the occasion was celebrated at the Omari Mosque attended by government officials and a large number of people. Ramtha officials visited the Ramtha Government Hospital, where they presented gifts to the patients.

In Madaba, the Awqaf Dep-

artment organised a ceremony at the Madaba Old Mosque, where Madaba Mayor Ahmad Al Azaidh reviewed the lessons of the Prophet's way of life and behaviour.

Karak is to celebrate the occasion Tuesday at the Grand Omari Mosque, where a number of speakers will address the gathering. Similar celebrations are to take place organised by women from charitable societies in Karak Governorate villages.

German pianist treats RCC to virtuoso show

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — West German master pianist, Wolfram Lorenzen, gave two concerts of classical and romantic music at the Royal Cultural Centre here Thursday and Saturday and also gave a recital at the residence of the West German ambassador, Dr. Hermann Munz, Friday evening. The audience were treated to a rare display of precision and virtuoso playing that evoked a range of moods from peace and tranquility to apprehension and a sense of drama that were inherent in the varied programme.

The well selected pieces, with their varying tempos, highlighted the versatility of Mr. Lorenzen and exemplified his precise style of playing. Particularly impressive were the dynamic crescendos of his closing pieces at the end of the concerts where feelings of passion and drama were released as a majestic finale.

Dramatic climax

Mr. Lorenzen remained in total empathy with his piano through the performances and his stylized intense romanticism that was illustrated in Franz Schubert's "Fantasy of a Wanderer" opus 15 in c major where the listener travelled through the scenes with the pianist sensing the build up from the pastoral tranquility to the dramatic climax.

Although the emphasis was mainly on intensity and romance, the inclusion of lighter sonatas by Mozart and the Concerto Waltz and Nocturne Three by Chopin pro-

Arab health council body set to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The 36th meeting of the executive bureau of the Arab Health Ministers Council will start in Abu Dhabi on January 5.

The meeting will debate topics which will be discussed by the Arab Health Ministers Council during its next session scheduled to be held in Damascus next March.

Also to be discussed by the council is a report on the bureau's activities, and other related issues.

Jordan will be represented at the meeting by a three-member delegation led by Health Minister Zuhair Malhas.

Land transport talks end

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Talks between Jordan and Iraq on land transport were concluded here Monday evening. The Jordanian side in the talks was led by Minister of Transport Ali Al Suheimat while the Iraqi side was led by Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Jabbar Abdulrahim.

Mr. Suheimat said that the two sides agreed upon many steps that would aid the transportation of cargo between the two countries. He also added that he reviewed at the meeting the achievements made between the two countries in the transport field and pointed out that they have agreed to continue work to realise more of these achievements in the interest of the two countries.

Also discussed were future plans for developing land transport between Jordan and Iraq.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, here Mr. Abdulrahim stressed the necessity of continuing discussions between transport sector officials in the two countries.

He added that the continuation of visits and meetings would help strengthen relations between the two sides. The final session was attended by members of the delegation accompanying Mr. Suheimat and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad, Saleh Al Kabariti.

Spanish guitarist to play flamenco style in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) is to be the venue for a concert of Flamenco guitar on Dec. 20 and 21.

Victor Monge "Serranito", who as well as being an accomplished guitar player is also professor of Flamenco Art at Jerez in Spain, is to appear in the centre under the auspices of the Spanish embassy and the Spanish Cultural Centre (SCC).

"Serranito" won the Guitar National Prize in 1979 at Cordoba and the Gold Medal at La Union.

He was selected by Spanish television to take part in the folk

music festival in 1977 at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, where, competing with players from 32 countries, he won the Gold Medal.

He has appeared at many famous international forums, including the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Centre, New York, Sala Madelaine, Brussels, Esal Hall, Dublin, Teatro Maria Guerrero, Madrid, Opera haus, Cologne, as well as theatres in Tokyo, Paris, Moscow and Rome.

Tickets for the concert are priced at JD 3 and are available from the RCC and the SCC.

Alia study seeks to discover why local women shun careers as flight attendants

By Ara Voskian
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, is financing a study, to be conducted by the University of Jordan Research Centre, to find out the reasons behind the reluctance of many young Jordanian women to seek careers as flight attendants with Alia.

"Alia is interested in employing Jordanian women because they represent an important cultural aspect of Jordan", said Dr. Abdullah Zeid Al Kilani, who, with his team of researchers from the University of Jordan, has undertaken the study.

"For some reason most Jordanian girls are reluctant to take on the job of flight attendants", Dr. Kilani told the Jordan Times in an interview. "That is why Jordanian stewardesses working for our national airline are very few."

According to Alia officials, almost 90 per cent of Alia's female flight attendants are foreigners.

The lack of young Jordanian women prompted Alia to conduct the research, which the cost of JD

3200, to point out where the problem of recruiting Jordanian stewardesses lies and how it can be overcome.

According to Dr. Kilani, the aims of the study are primarily to explore the actual reasons behind the reluctance of the girls, or their parents, to undertake this type of work.

Secondly the study aims to find out what information, "including some false impressions", they might have about the job, Dr. Kilani said.

The third aim of the study is to find out how these young women react to this information and what type of approach is more effective, in changing their attitudes and feelings towards this type of work, Dr. Kilani added.

The flight attendants' main job is to advise, to comfort and to guide the passengers as well as to look after their safety.

They are especially trained by Alia for emergencies, firefighting and to give primary medical aid to passengers in case any such help is needed.

The flight attendants "are not bartenders as some people think",

said one Alia official. "They are ambassadors for their country".

Other Alia officials said that many parents are not keen to let their daughters work as flight attendants because they do not like the idea of their daughters sleeping abroad.

Others say that the salaries paid for the flight attendants are not appealing, as the average monthly salary of a Jordanian flight attendant is between JD 150 to JD 180, including allowances, while foreigners receive higher salaries that include a housing allowance.

Still others point out that a secretary working in a private company in Jordan could earn up to three times the salary paid for air hostesses, while these also have the advantage of fixed working hours and do not have the hardships and strains that are faced by the flight attendants while on duty.

Whatever the reasons, it is hoped that, by the end of the study, Alia will be able to design an information programme which emphasises certain types of information and specific ways of presenting it which will be eff-

icacious in giving people the right ideas about Alia and the conditions of work in it, according to Dr. Kilani.

"Hopefully it will lead to the attraction of more local people into the industry", Dr. Kilani said.

The research will be carried out on a number of groups which are: A) graduates from secondary and intermediate colleges and universities; B) parents; C) opinion leaders such as people in high governmental positions.

The survey will also include a fourth category of people namely air stewards and stewardesses.

With this group the survey seeks to find out the circumstances in which flight attendants work, and the advantages and disadvantages of their work and conditions in Alia compared to other Arab and international airlines.

"Passengers on board Alia, Arabs and foreigners, expect to see the Jordanian cultural values reflected by Jordanian girls in their behaviour and traditions," Dr. Kilani said. "This is a good reason for hiring young Jordanian women rather than foreigners to do the job."

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Neither black nor white

A FEW days ago, George Habash, leader of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), told a Gulf newspaper that he objected to Yasser Arafat resuming the dialogue with Jordan, that he still strongly believed in the Palestinians' "strategic" bond with Syria, and that convening an immediate joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and all the secretaries general of Palestinian organisations under the PLO umbrella, rather than the Palestine National Council, is the best way for solving the inter-Palestinian conflict.

Important as they are — Habash being the respected Palestinian figure that he is — the PFLP leader's remarks should be looked at carefully to see what the Palestinian leadership would do next and where the organisation would head in the post-Tripoli era. Upon these remarks depends much of the direction of the PLO policy in the near future and beyond.

Arafat is now preparing to set sail from Tripoli, presumably going to his headquarters in Tunis. There, he is expected to either call for limited meetings among the Palestinian leaders — chiefly in Fateh and the PLO Executive Committee and possibly with Habash himself, or the PLO chairman might want to settle his score with the Syrians first, by undertaking a trip to Jordan or Saudi Arabia or both right away. The strongest likelihood though is that Arafat will need to stay in Tunisia for some time, for both logistical and tactical reasons, and before he comes to Amman to resume his dialogue with Jordan, for the first time since its abandoning last April.

Arafat's return to Jordan is inevitable. Whether Habash would like it or not, the PLO chairman has no substantial option by isolating Jordan, nor by being isolated by it — not after his recent bitter experience with Syria anyway. And he would have to keep the channel with Jordan always open for other important reasons as well. In fact Arafat, much as he respects the opinions of his radical Palestinian colleagues, would not want to be too much influenced by them and he would probably distance himself from their line if he deemed it necessary and convincing to forge a common link with Jordan on moves to tackle the Palestinian question: The occupied territories are only partly their constituency, but his is the much bigger, and also never is he going to trust the present regime in Syria with which the radical Palestinian leaders did not and do not want to quarrel, even when the Syrians wanted Arafat dead or finished.

There, however, should not be any kind of frenzy to know what card Arafat chooses to play in the post-Tripoli era. His situation may be difficult, but the options he still has are neither exactly black or snow white.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The fewer the better

IF PLANS go ahead as scheduled, the Greek ships will Monday morning sail to Tripoli raising the U.N. flag under the protection of French naval vessels to carry away the Palestinian fighters to their new exile. This is yet another exodus of the Palestinians who were driven out of their land in 1948. It is a tragedy to see the Arab inhabitants being driven out of their own land, persecuted in their exile and eventually expelled from all Arab regions surrounding their original homeland in Palestine. This tragedy is being enacted in full view of the Arab Nation and Arab leaders.

We have to stop and look back at the long series of events and try to take stock of the developments. We see in the new exodus — a new test for the Palestinians who are driven from one exile to another. The exodus represents a document attesting to the fact that the Palestinians have been deprived of their own homeland. Therefore they must not be allowed to despair because the fewer the number of places where they can find refuge the better the incentive they will have to try to return to their own land.

Al Distour: Second chance crucial

THE PALESTINIANS are departing from Lebanon for the second time. They have been forced out of that country to live away from their homeland and their own people as they have done in the past. Looking back at the events, we find that the Palestinian leadership has discovered its friends and enemies and can judge those who tried to deprive that leadership of its right to taking independent decisions. The battle of the Palestinians against those who tried to impose their will and hegemony on them and against those who usurped their country-Palestine will continue.

Undoubt the Palestinian leadership has won the overwhelming support of the Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule because the leadership has clung to its principles and declared for the political programme as endorsed by the Palestine National Council in Tunis. The Palestinian leadership can continue to attain its successes if it adheres to the council's resolutions which, among other things, underlines the importance of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. The Palestinian leadership cannot and must not lose a second chance. It must work towards further strengthening this relationship in all forms.

Sawt Al Shaab: Struggle to continue

THE EXODUS from Tripoli is not the end for the Palestinian fighters and the Palestinian people. The Palestinians can now continue the struggle in other forms and can learn from the lessons of the past. The new exodus brings the PLO face to face with a new stage of political struggle, but it also gives it the chance to benefit from the experience of the past 20 years of its life.

The exodus ends a period of inter-Arab fighting marked by shameful behaviour on the part of certain Arab states and quarters. The exodus in itself represents a shameful chapter in Arab history witnessing a group of freedom fighters seeking protection from foreign nations and a refuge in foreign countries because their brethren failed to supply them with protection and a secure land to live on.

Help the moderates

By Rami G. Khouri

Readers of this column will have realised by now that, once in a while, I have access to some very privileged information supplied to me by sources that must remain confidential. Last week, I received another interesting packet of material from my sources, and in my deep commitment to the right of the public to know, I feel it is my duty to publish it. What I received was a transcript of a conversation that was held in the White House last week, in which United States President Ronald Reagan and his top advisers were discussing the options open to them after the recent meetings in Washington between the American and Israeli leaders. Following is the transcript I received:

Reagan: Welcome to the White House, and let's get started right away. George, you just returned from visiting a few Middle Eastern countries. What was the reaction to our meetings with Prime Minister Begin?

Shultz: Mr. President, the man you met with was Prime Minister Shamir. Mr. Begin resigned a few months ago.

Reagan: Really? By golly, I thought that little rascal had grown a lot of hair recently.

What's the name of the new fellow?

Shultz: His name is Yitzhak Shamir. To answer your question, Mr. President, the Arabs were really angry about our agreements with the Israelis. They think this destroys American credibility in the Middle East, and they suggest we should do something to restore our credibility as mediators. I've had my office do some preliminary studies on the matter and we have prepared a few policy options for you.

Reagan: Credibility's bad, huh? You know what we used to do in the movies when our credibility was down. George? We used to shoot 'em up a little, you know, make 'em dance, and that usually solved things. How about if we attack some Libyan planes? That always helps our credibility.

Shultz: Sir, I don't think that would be the best option right now. You see, the moderate Arabs are concerned that a tightening of American-Israeli relations will only put them in a more awkward situation. We need to make a move that would be perceived by the Arabs as a practical gesture of American support for the moderate Arabs, at a time

when they are threatened by so many different people.

Reagan: Where's our Middle East special envoy these days? By the way, who is our Middle East envoy? These guys change so fast I can't keep up with them.

Shultz: Uh, let's see. This is December, so it must be Rumsfeld.

Reagan: Let's do something really decisive and deal with the concerns of the moderate Arabs once and for all. What do you think, Bud?

MacFarlane: Our multi-optional cybernetic high-resolution trimodal analysis indicates that an optimal interphasing between the geo-strategic-political concerns of the moderate Arabs and the quadra-attitudinal forward-phased sensitising bio-rhythmic parametrical optimised national security projections of the United States of America suggests that the most appropriate course of action in the present circumstances is to take it.

Reagan: Thank you, Bud. Weinberger: Mr. President, my staff has examined the military implications of our recent discussions with the Israeli leadership, and I think we have

only one realistic option open to us. We have to invade and occupy Jordan.

Reagan: Thank you, Cap. Do you think the moderate Arabs would be upset by such a course of action?

Weinberger: No, sir. I don't think an occupation of Jordan would do lasting damage to our standing in the Middle East. First, we have been accused of being indecisive, and an occupation of Jordan would go a long way towards re-establishing our image in the eyes of the Arab moderates as decisive and bold. Second, this is a logical extension of our relationship with Israel. Our upgrading of military-political ties with Israel will make Israel stronger than ever, and this is in keeping with our policy of maintaining Israel as the strongest party in the area. Ultimately, the Israelis want to invade and occupy Jordan, but this would be awkward for the United States. If we undertake the mission ourselves, however, we would be viewed as the party that came to the aid of Jordan and the moderate Arabs at a time when they were threatened by a combination of Israeli militarism and pro-Soviet radicalism in the region.

am impressed by this option, and I feel very strongly that if to invade and occupy Jordan is the best way to show our support for the moderate Arabs, then this is what we should do. It is also in keeping with the strong, special relationship that we have had with Jordan for many decades. I've always felt that our ties with Jordan have been susceptible to short-term ups and downs. If we invade and occupy it, however, this will set up a more lasting bilateral relationship that will serve as an example for the other moderate Arabs who look to us for help to resolve the underlying causes of instability and uncertainty in the Middle East. This will also indicate to the Arabs that we want even closer ties with them than we have with Israel, and what better way to get close to the moderate Arabs than for us to occupy Jordan? What do you think, George?

Shultz: Well, sir, I think your ideas have considerable merit, but there may be some short-term complications. What if, for example, the Jordanians do not want to be occupied by the United States?

Reagan: Huh? Geeze, I never really thought of that.

What do you think Cap? Weinberger: I am convinced, sir, that an American occupation of Jordan would in the long-term interest advancing the peace process in the Middle East and bring to an end the long suffering of those people who are stuck to us in that part of the world.

Reagan: Which people? Weinberger: The moderate Arabs, sir. We have to show them very soon that we want to expand the circle of moderate Arabs, and what better way than to occupy Jordan and directly protect one of the moderate and reasonable states in the area?

Reagan: Hmmmmmm, makes more sense all the time. What about the Israelis, would they approve this?

Shultz: We can set up a meeting for you with the Israeli prime minister next week.

Reagan: OK, set up a meeting for me with Mr. Begin and let's launch Operation Moderation.

Shultz: Uh, sir, you mean a meeting with Mr. Shamir, don't you?

Reagan: That's right, George. Set up a meeting with Mr. Shamir and let's get on with the task of making peace in the Middle East.



A confusing U.S. Mideast policy

By David Ignatius

LISBON — A reporter recently admitted to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that he didn't understand U.S. Mideast policy and Mr. Shultz appeared shocked.

"It's inconceivable to me that you don't understand it, because it's so clear," Mr. Shultz said, adding in the tone of an exasperated former economics professor: "You understand it perfectly well!"

Perhaps Mr. Shultz has a thick-headed class. But there is growing evidence that, in addition to confusing reporters, Mr. Shultz's Mideast policy isn't understood well by some Arabs, Israelis, Europeans and even the American public. Indeed, Mr. Shultz himself conceded on his way to Lisbon to meet with Portuguese leaders that, during his recent visits to Tunisia and Morocco, he found "gross misunderstanding" of that policy among some Arabs.

The confusion stems partly from what seems to many Mideast and U.S. analysts to be sudden shifts in the American outlook toward the region. A year ago, the U.S. was angry at Israel for invading Lebanon and cozy with the moderate Arabs. Now Israel is America's best friend and the

Arabs are viewed as unreliable. Several months ago, the U.S. indicated it was ready to give Syria a much larger role in Lebanon as the price of stability there. Now the emphasis is on limiting Syrian influence.

U.S. policy has even seemed to vacillate during the past few weeks: One day the U.S. is attacking Syrian army positions in Lebanon and the next day officials are insisting that the U.S. and Israel haven't any intention of fighting Syria. Meanwhile, some State Department officials insist that the change in U.S. policy isn't really a change at all.

Trial and error?

These shifting attitudes have fostered an impression that U.S. Mideast policy is a trial-and-error process, in which various approaches are attempted and discarded, rather than the elaboration of a consistent approach.

State Department officials argue that the policy does have a clear rationale. In response to a major increase in Soviet military assistance to Syria, the U.S. decided to expand its military ties with Israel. Syrian intransigence in Lebanon and the Syrian-supported Oct. 23 attack on American Marines in Beirut added to

the conviction that the U.S. needed to take a tougher line in the region and could do so only by turning to its one reliable ally — Israel.

There also was growing American frustration with the moderate Arabs — especially Saudi Arabia and Jordan. These Arab allies simply hadn't delivered on their promise to get the Syrians out of Lebanon and to encourage peace negotiations on the Palestinian problem.

Underlying the policy shift is a perception among leading State Department officials that the U.S. exerts influence in the Middle East when it has — and is seen to have — a close relationship with Israel that can counter the Soviet Union. This analysis assumes that, while the moderate Arabs may squawk about U.S.-Israeli ties, their real worry is the spread of Soviet-sponsored radicalism in the region.

Mr. Shultz put the new policy forthrightly into practice last week when he proclaimed in two Arab capitals: "The U.S. has had, does have and will continue to have a strong relationship with Israel." "He explained to reporters that he had made these blunt statements because "it's important that the U.S. have the same policy wherever you happen

to be."

Understandable frustrations

Mr. Shultz's desire to stand up to the Syrians and Soviets, and his frustration with the moderate Arabs, are all understandable. The problem with the new U.S. policy is that it lacks subtlety, and in the Middle East that can be a fatal flaw.

Mr. Shultz's proclamations in Tunis and Rabat about the U.S.-Israeli relationship are a case in point. Most Arab leaders understand that this alliance attitude toward sex: Do what you want, but don't do it in the road where you might scare the horses. For Mr. Shultz to have used his visit to two Arab countries to state the facts so bluntly and publicly probably seemed to some Arabs like bad manners and an abuse of hospitality.

America's Middle East policy must inevitably be a study in ambiguity. As a great power, the U.S. has important interests in both Israel and the Arab World, and the task of U.S. diplomacy is to maintain the useful illusion that the U.S. can ride two horses at once. The recent drift of U.S. policy seems, to some Arab officials, to ignore that requirement — Wall Street Journal.

Grenada government pledges poll in 1984

By Rendon Eversley
 Reuter

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — Grenada moved a stage closer to normality this week as the last United States troops left the island and the government started the process which should lead to a general election within a year.

It will be the island's first election in seven years, and will bring to an end the period of rule by the interim government set up by the U.S.-led forces which invaded Grenada on Oct. 25.

Nicholas Braithwaite, the chairman of the interim government, has said he is committed to holding a poll sometime in 1984.

"By Christmas next year, I hope that instead of being in the position which I now occupy, I will be on the beach...hoping for a future in Grenada where free and fair elections will become the standard practice and not a periodic exercise," he said.

The first major stage in the process is likely to come later this month when Governor General Sir Paul Scoon is to nominate the supervisor who will oversee the step-by-step preparation of the election.

The supervisor will then consult with Barbadian electoral officials, who have offered to help Grenada compile an electoral roll, and once this has taken place, probably between March and May, the date for the election will be set. Mr. Braithwaite said.

It is not yet known which or how many parties will participate in the election.

Sir Eric Gairy, deposed by Mr. Bishop in 1979 and now living in exile in the United States, is said by sources close to him to intend to return to Grenada this month.

His Grenadian United Labour Party (GULP) won nine of the parliament's 15 seats in the 1976 election, compared with six for the left-wing coalition headed by Mr. Bishop.

But although the party is now dormant, island sources say it still continues to enjoy support among the mass of the Grenadian electorate.

Other contenders include two Grenadian emigres, Michael Syl-

vester and Mark Isaac, both currently living in the United States and both heading pro-Western movements.

Mr. Sylvester, now teaching law at New York's Pace University, said of his Grenada Democratic Movement: "We believe in the market place as an economic principle. We are to the right, but prefer to say conservative."

Marc Isaac said his Grenada Unification Party (GUP), which he will launch next week, would be socialist, but of a different kind from Mr. Bishop's New Jewel Movement.

In the meantime, the interim government, supported by a 1,000-strong security force made up of U.S. military police, local police and a seven-nation Caribbean contingent, faces a series of serious economic and political problems.

Of major concern is the island's severe cash-flow crisis, made all the more serious by the recent decision of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to suspend a \$14.1 million credit facility due to be paid in November as part of an extended loan agreed in August.

The decision, which followed the discovery by an IMF Advisory Council of a projected unfinanced deficit of \$3.55 million for the year to Dec. 31, 1983, is expected to be temporary, but commentators say that satisfying the IMF auditors is likely to prove difficult for the government.

The government must also decide what to do about its partially completed airport, the construction of which was halted by the invasion.

President Reagan attacked the project as part of a Soviet-Cuban strategic gambit, but Grenadians have argued it is necessary for the country's tourist industry.

Added to these is the problem of how to deal with those arrested after the October invasion. Some have been released, but nearly 50 people detained during the subsequent invasion remain in jail, including members of the 16-man military junta that ruled Grenada after the coup.

The governor general said last week that charges would soon be laid against them.

Merry
Christmas...

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة باللغة الإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

...HAPPY
New Year

Two thousand years ago there came a call for all mankind to live in peace with equal rights based on the concept of love. The voice was quelled on a cross but its vibrations boom much more loudly in the world today with the intensity it gathered over the centuries.

"Gloria in excelsis deo et in terra pax hominibus..."

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY DECEMBER 20, 1983

1983-84 CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR SUPPLEMENT & SHOPPING GUIDE

Page 1

1983-84 CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR SUPPLEMENT & SHOPPING GUIDE





We make your shopping easier

Some of us love Christmas shopping. Others wilt at the mere thought of tired feet, aching arms and endless worries about whether the gift is suitable or not — not to mention the hectic packing and wrapping that follows.

We've searched hard to make your Christmas shopping easier by offering you suggestions and listing prices and shops that stock the things you need.

All this was done in the hope that you won't find shopping such a burden or mistakenly think that what you're looking

for is not available here in Jordan.

So go on, enjoy your shopping and, while you're at it, why not treat yourself and buy that little something or other that you have fancied for a long time but dared not to splash your money away on.

After all, Christmas is the season to be merry and to make everybody happy. So as you wish your friends, family and yourself a merry Christmas, remember that the Jordan Times joins wholeheartedly in wishing you a very happy Christmas and all the best for 1984.

The magic of Bethlehem

By Ara Voskian

ONLY 12 kilometres away from the Old City of Jerusalem lies the historic town of Bethlehem where there is one of the most important Christian holy places in the world, the Church of the Nativity, which covers the grotto where Jesus Christ was born.

Bethlehem, with a population of more than 16,000, is located on the crest of the eastward slope of the central Palestine plateau and is one of the oldest cities in Palestine.

Eventful history

This birth place of Jesus was a Philistine garrison city which was raised to the ground by the Roman Emperor Hadrian in 132 A.D. most probably because it had gradually transformed into a Christian shrine.

Bethlehem remained virtually non-existent until the Christian Roman emperor Constantine I erected a basilica there, about 330 A.D. The basilica was named the Church of Saint Mary, thereby reviving interest in the birth place of Jesus.

The basilica was restored during the reign of the Roman emperor Justinian I who ruled from 527 to 565 A.D. Thereafter the edifice was called the Church of the Nativity. Since then, Bethlehem was ruled by the Persians the Arabs, the Crusaders and then the Arabs again until the Ottoman Turks took possession of Palestine in 1571 and remained in control until the end of World War I when the Holy Land became part of the British mandate. All during this time the Church of the Nativity was not harmed and the town was spared from attacks.

In 1947, when the United Nations drew the plan to partition Palestine, it was proposed that Jerusalem be put under U.N. control. Had this plan materialised, Bethlehem would have been included within the boundaries of the U.N.-controlled Jerusalem. But this plan was shelved because of the war in 1948 after which Bethlehem remained under Jordan until it was occupied by the Israelis during the 1967 war.

Through these years Bethlehem became a major tourist attraction, especially

during the Christmas festivities when thousands of pilgrims from all around the world arrive to make their pilgrimage during the celebrations of the birth of Jesus. Therefore, tourism is the most important aspect in the lives of the inhabitants, including a large number of craftsmen who thrive by making souvenirs that are sold to the thousands of tourists and pilgrims.

Traditions maintained

Christmas celebrations start on the morning of Dec. 24 every year when the Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem at the head of a huge procession launches the 12-kilometre journey to Bethlehem where thousands of pilgrims who usually arrive early in the morning to await, at the vast ground outside the Church of the Nativity, his arrival.

Bethlehem's inhabitants would have already made their preliminary contribution for the creation of the magical aura that prevails over the town throughout the Christmas celebrations, by decorating the town, especially the area in front of the church with thousands of flags and multi-colour lights, putting up a big Christmas tree outside the church and installing a large number of loudspeakers on the walls.



The Valley of the Shepherds with the Church of the Nativity (left) and parts of the town of Bethlehem (right), viewed from the entrance to the ancient city (File photo).

Upon arrival at the ground outside the church the patriarch and the accompanying procession are usually met by the mayor of Bethlehem and other dignitaries of the town. Together with all the clergymen and the pilgrims the procession enters the Church of the Nativity singing religious hymns. This marks the beginning of Bethlehem's Christmas celebrations.

The procession enters through the small, one-metre high, main entrance of the church. It is said that the entrance of the church was made so small so that the pilgrims, who in the old days used to come from far away places, would not bring their beasts of burden with them inside the church. Others say that the entrance made small to remind the pilgrims to show their respect by bowing while entering the holy place. Whatever the reason is, two things are certain: pilgrims definitely bow while entering the church and there is no way a beast of burden

can enter through such a small entrance.

Charismatic combination

One day before Christmas carols can be heard all over the town through the loudspeakers. Souvenir shops, restaurants and cafes are busy, trying their utmost to satisfy the thousands of visitors.

The Bethlehemites have never failed to extend their hospitality, which, combined with the history of the place, the beauty of its geographical position and the idea behind Christmas, brings about the magic behind the celebrations in Bethlehem.

By nightfall thousands of flood lights around the city illuminate its streets which are alive with visitors and pilgrims awaiting for the start of the midnight mass which starts at 12 p.m.

There has always been joy in Bethlehem during Christmas celebrations, and there will still be joy in Bethlehem despite the Israeli occupation, despite the enormous economic and political problems that the inhabitants face everyday of the year while under occupation, and despite the long and irritating physical

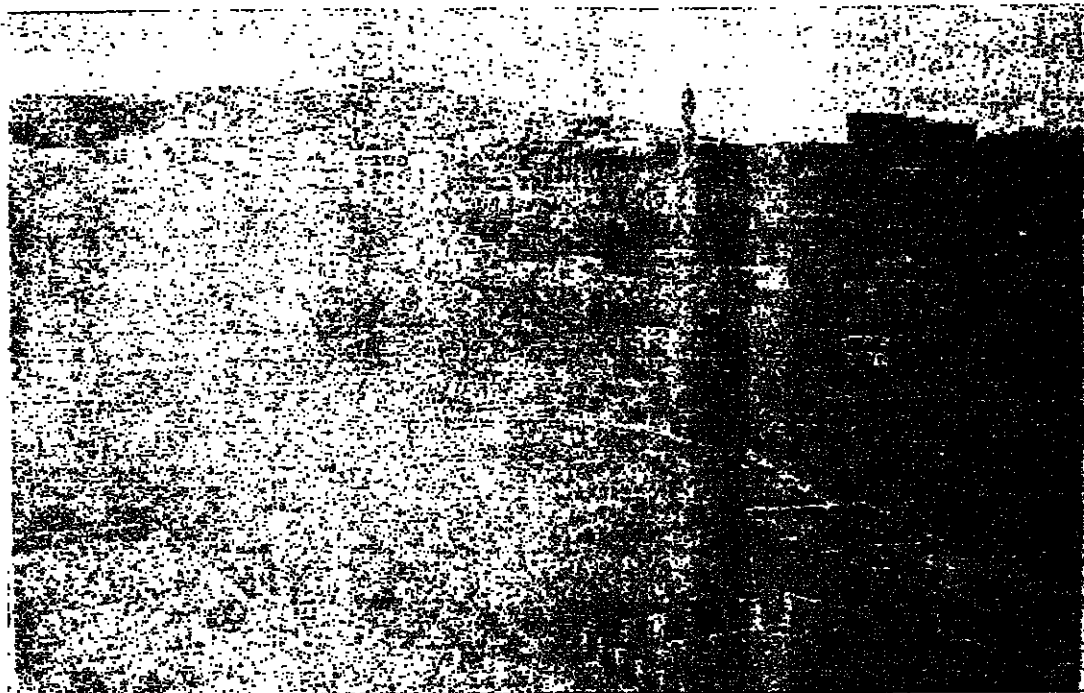
searches by Israeli soldiers that one has to undergo before entering the church compound.

Celebrations again

After the Christmas celebration of the Roman Catholics of Bethlehem prepare for another celebration, this time with the Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas on Jan. 6 according to the New Orthodox Calendar. This time Bethlehem welcomes the Greek patriarch and the city is alive again.

Thirteen days after this, on Jan. 18, Bethlehem celebrates Christmas for the third time, this time with the Armenians who celebrate Christmas according to the Old Orthodox Calendar. Bethlehem mayor welcomes the Armenian patriarch and his procession from Jerusalem and for the third time the town is alive. Burning lights illuminate the city shops, cafes and restaurants are full of visitors. Christmas carols are heard all around the city.

The intensity of Bethlehem's magic has remained, its charisma through all these years.



General view of Bethlehem from the Church of the Nativity (File photo)

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For the largest variety of Christmas decorations, gifts and toys. Always stores must be your first choice.

Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year!

1. Gifts for men....

MEN DO love Christmas and presents although they might not always let on that they do. If buying a present for your husband, boyfriend or brother has previously required a lot of time and energy the best approach is not to think of present ideas but the man himself. Does he spend time doing sports, taking things to pieces or reading? They really do appreciate the thought behind the gift and are easy to please. The following list may help you out or even spark off some ideas of your own:

— Most men like cars, especially fast ones, and a book about them from the Amman Bookshop, off Third Circle, is bound to please. There is quite a good choice including information on sports cars, racing cars, MGs and Rolls Royces and prices start at JD 5. If he prefers trains, motorbikes or aeroplanes there are also books on these.

— For relaxing at home for exercising a leisure suit is the answer. More stylish than a tracksuit, it can be worn for picnics and going out but it is also comfortable for exercising. Baraka Sports Shop, in the arcade off Prince Mohammad Street, has a range of colours and styles for between JD 40 and JD 45.

— The way to a man's heart is through his stomach is an old adage but true. Many men love good old home made apple pies and sponge puddings with treacle and cream or custard. Why not make the effort and cook him his favourite meal, especially the pudding.

— If your man has fond memories of English pubs you could buy him a dart board from the Wadi Saqra Bookshop. They have both wooden boards and felt covered for around JD 15 as well as good quality darts. To make the setting complete you could buy him a

ceramic pint beer mug from the Amra Pottery shop in Shmeisani near the Commodore Hotel for JD 1,500.

— With winter approaching, a lambswool Byford scarf would be a practical gift. They are available at Al Rihani on Rainbow Street for JD 6,900.

— A genuine antique dagger would make an unusual present. The shop of Abu George in Abdali is well worth a visit and you could easily come out with lots of other gift ideas.

— If your man fancies himself as a barman you could buy him a super brass cocktail shaker from Cadiz on Prince Mohammad Street for JD 38,500. You can both have lots of fun devising your own drinks, such as an "Amman Sling" or a "Luweibdeh Wallbanger," and it makes parties more fun too.

— A pair of locally made wincytte pyjamas make a very good and practical gift. They are beautifully warm and come in attractive striped patterns. Made by the Jordan Clothing Company, they are good value at JD 7 and can be found in most men's clothing shops downtown and also at Al Waha. They are good for ladies too.

— Tool sets are wonderful gifts as not only do they keep him amused but you may also get various jobs done for you around the house. There are all sizes and types to be found downtown. A good buy is a Black and Decker mini drill for about JD 15.

— The most wonder gift a man today could receive is his very own home computer which he can spend hours fiddling with and learning how to programme. Not only can he keep his accounts and file addresses of clients but he can also blast spaceships out of the sky, very therapeutic after a day at the office. A good model for beginners is the Texas TI/99/4A which can be

bought for JD 147,500 at the Arab Trading and Marketing Company in Shmeisani near the Scientific Bookshop. You can also buy various accessories such as joysticks, printers and extra tapes to give as presents on other occasions.

— Why not pamper him after a hard day and buy him a good bottle of brandy. Khalaf Stores in Jabal Luweibdeh has a good range, and a special brandy glass from Fa Sha would make the present ideal.

— For some reason men do not seem to like buying underwear and you could save yourself the bother of darning if you buy him some new socks as well as underwear. The Cowboy shop on Prince Mohammad Street has good quality socks from JD 2,250 in addition to Playboy underpants for JD 2,500 which makes giving underwear as a present a little less boring.

— Spoil him with an Aramis Devan gift box from the Avon Centre on Prince Mohammad Street. It consists of shaving foam, after shave soother, eau de cologne and talc for JD 28.

— No more missed appointments with a daily agenda from most bookshops at JD 3,500. The agendas are hardbacked and will last the whole year and there is a whole page for each day. Also available are smaller diaries which would be a good gift to give.

— The Cowboy shop on Prince Mohammad Street has some very smart Maurice Emile shirts from Paris in stock. There is everything from chequed lumber jack styles for the casual man to dress shirts. At JD 13 each they make ideal presents.

— If your man smokes a nice gift would be an ashtray and a lighter. You can buy brass ashtrays from souvenir shops for anything between 500 fils and JD 3. The Amra Pottery shop in

Shmeisani has some attractive ceramic ashtrays from JD 1. Personally, I think that solid gold lighters are not only extravagant but also disastrous if they are lost. A good compromise is a Ronson lighter from Al Waha stores as they are special gifts. There is quite a choice and some even have a quartz clock in them and they are packed in gift boxes. Prices start at JD 19 up to JD 24,700.

— For the sporting man there are a few options: training shoes for around JD 16 and squash or tennis rackets from JD 12 to JD 70. If he already has a racket a nice present would be a cover for it, some balls or a sports bag. There are several sports shops with a good selection of equipment.

— Backgammon boards made in Damascus are another very good gift. The wood inlaid with camel bone, or mother-of-pearl makes them very attractive, and gives each one a unique quality. Prices range from JD 10 upwards depending on the wood used and the amount of work. Backgammon boards can be found at any souvenir shop around town.

— If your man needs a new wallet or a belt visit the Leather Shop on Civil Defence Street opposite the Holiday Inn and pick out something from the shelves. The choice is good and the prices vary depending on the quality of the leather and the workmanship.

— A new Samsonite briefcase or suitcase would also be welcomed by any man. They are very sturdy and long lasting products and can be found at Tiger Stores at the beginning of the leading from downtown to First Circle. They are expensive, starting at JD 25 but they look good and last.

(A.C.)

3. Gifts for teenagers....

TEENAGERS ARE easy to buy for as they always need clothes and enjoy music and entertainment. As they often are not earning money anything is appreciated, especially things they need such as toiletries, pens and books. If you can arrange a party for them this is a good way of amusing them and they could help in the preparations by cooking or making decorations.

— Posters brighten up any room and there are some very amusing decals and posters in the Hallmark giftshop for JD 1,500. If your teenager has a preference for a particular pop or movie star the Athena shop, near the French Loaf off Second Circle, has a wide selection of pop, animal, film star and reproduced prints of paintings for JD 2.

— Reference books are a necessity for students to check facts and extend their knowledge. The Jordan Distribution Agency on Sha'aban Street has a good selection of atlases, dictionaries and reference books at various prices. They also stock the Encyclopedia Britannica which is in thirty volumes with three dictionaries and an atlas. The entire set costs JD 425 but it will last a lifetime.

— The Audio-Video shop downtown on King Faisal Street has a vast range of from classical to punk and heavy metal. The tapes are only JD 1 each and if you buy five you get one free and there are many newly released albums and tapes. You can't really go wrong buying tapes for teenagers.

— To go with their newly acquired tapes, why not buy your special teenager a Sony Walkman. That way they can listen to their music through the headphones, without being told to turn it down. Walkmans are available at the Sony centre on Rainbow Street opposite the Saudi Arabian embassy and they cost JD 38, JD 50 or JD

78 depending on the model.

— Teenage girls are always concerned about their skin and their hair and are perpetually in need of toiletries. Make this Christmas special by giving them something unusual from the Maison de Plant in Shmeisani. This delightful shop smells as good as it looks and has a wonderful range of soaps, shampoos, lotions and bath gels all made from plant extracts such as cucumber and avocado. The packaging is very attractive and you can select various items to make a lovely and useful gift. Prices start at about JD 1 for the natural soaps. Another idea is to buy some of the products and arrange them in a basket from the craft centre off Second Circle and tie a ribbon or bow on the handle for a special touch.

— Either sex would make good use of a camera from Salbashian Trading Company in Wadi Saqra Street. They have an excellent range of Konica, Minolta and Pentax cameras from instantatics to 35mm SLRs as well as accessories and film. The prices vary depending on what you buy but a good SLR could start someone off on an interesting hobby and lenses could be given on other occasions as gifts. To go with the camera you could include the Kodak book "How to Take Good Pictures," available from the Amman Bookshop, for JD 4 to get them started.

— Encourage musical ability with a guitar from Twang on Prince Mohammad Street. Six string classical guitars start at JD 19 and go up to JD 70 while folk guitars range from JD 50 to JD 98. There is also a good selection of teach yourself books and song books by various artists. Music lessons can be arranged at Twang. In addition they have some novelty gifts with musical connections including tie-pins, badges and brooches.

— Any teenage boy would love a pair of football boots or training shoes available from Baraka Sports off Prince Mohammad Street, starting at JD 8 up to JD 25 depending on the make and size. A pair of soccer shorts at JD 3 and a football shirt for JD 3 would make a complete gift. You could also buy a sports bag for JD 3 and pack the other gifts inside as an extra special present.

— A calculator and a watch are important possessions for teenagers. It is worth spending sometime downtown as that is where the best choice and value is. All the wellknown makes are stocked and you can find Casio calculators from JD 8 and digital watches for the same price.

— Encourage letter-writing with a gift of a writing paper set or notelets available at the Hallmark gift shop in Jabal Luweibdeh or at Istiklal Library in Shmeisani for around JD 1,500. To go with the writing set you could include a cane letter rack from "Bits and Pieces" in Abdali.

— Another useful gift is a desk light available from Snobar and Sofan near the Ministry of Interior Circle in a variety of colours. Also for the desk you can buy inlaid cylindrical boxes from souvenir shops to keep pens and pencils tidy. The boxes are decorative as well as useful and cost only JD 3.

— A good gift for a teenage girl would be an attractive toilet or make-up bag filled with a collection of assorted cosmetics. The Dajani International Pharmacy in Shmeisani has a good choice of wellknown make-up brands and a palette of mixed eyeshadows, some mascara and a couple of lipsticks would be an appreciated present.

— A hairdryer is also a useful gift for a young lady, especially if it has various styling attachments. They can be found at various pharmacies and electrical shops

but Al Waha Stores has a good selection of different brands and types from JD 6.

— Most teenagers live in their jeans and Christmas might be a good time to get them into a new pair. They are available all over town for about JD 15 and if your particular teenager likes the casual look, Khalifeh Stores downtown have a selection of easy to wear clothes. Sweatshirts are another popular item and are sold for JD 9 at Sweetie on Prince Mohammad Street. Also at Sweetie are pure wool sweaters in various plain colours for JD 8.

— Pens are also welcome gifts for teenagers. Choose from a selection of Parker pens starting at JD 1,500 at the Dajani International Pharmacy in Shmeisani or as a special gift you could buy a set of Rotring art pens from the Istiklal Library.

— Young people often accumulate knick knacks such as badges, jewelry and beads. These could be neatly put away in beautiful hand-painted paper mache boxes which can be found at Cadiz on Prince Mohammad Street for between JD 4 and JD 15. Another original gift is a scented candle in a tin box available from the Hallmark shop in Jabal Luweibdeh from JD 4,750. The candle could be taken out and put on display and the tin used for trinkets.

— A sheepskin jerkin is a warm and practical gift. They can be purchased for JD 15 at Ismael Tamimi Fur Exhibition, off Third Circle. You can also order soft warm slippers from hars with prices varying according to size.

Other gift ideas include keyrings and photo albums which can be found in bookshops around town. Always more than acceptable are pastries, sweetmeats and cakes from Ata Ali and Jabri in Shmeisani and La Brioche in Jabal Hussein (A.C.)

2. Gifts for women....

WHY NOT spoil your favourite lady this Christmas and let her know how much you care. Try to make the gifts personal and avoid giving household gifts unless they are pretty as well as practical. Something that makes housework a bit more fun is fine but I don't know many women who would be thrilled at receiving an iron or washing-up gloves.

— A vanity case for travelling would make an attractive and useful gift. The Istiklal Library downtown has a selection of vanity cases in plain colours and various patterns for between JD 17 and JD 23. For that extra touch you could slip in some of her favourite cosmetics.

— There will be something for your special lady at the Amra Pottery shop opposite the Commodore Hotel in Shmeisani. There is an assortment of locally made ceramics including vases, plant holders, decorative items as well as plates and mugs. Maybe you could start a collection and add to it on other occasions. The prices are very reasonable starting at JD 1 for an attractive pastel mug.

— Photographs are always treasured so why not put them on display. There is a fantastic choice of photo frames at Cadiz at the top of Prince Mohammad Street including silver, wood and unusual ceramic frames. Prices start at JD 5 for the small frames but it is well worth the money as they are very attractive and will show off your photos to the best effect and they are lovely to receive.

— Pamper and spoil your lady, she deserves it. Why not arrange for a complete beauty treatment to make her look and feel wonderful. The "Hair and Beauty" salon at Fifth Circle offers a wide range of treatments including hair cutting and styling, perms, facials, make

ups, manicures and pedicures. Prices are available on request depending on the treatments.

— To save her making coffee throughout the day you could invest in a filter coffee-maker available for around JD 14 at household stores. Not only does the coffee taste better than instant coffee but also it stays hot on the hot plate and you can help yourself without having to boil a kettle each time. Another idea is to buy her an enamel jug from downtown, some small coffee cups and saucers and some coffee. You may get some Arabic coffee out of it all.

— Recipe books are a practical gift and there is a good choice at the Amman Bookshop, just off Third Circle. There are large hardback books from JD 4,950 to JD 9 in addition to paperbacks for JD 1,250 covering everything from the simple to the exotic. There is also a good selection at Sharbains Bookshop at First Circle.

— At Nour Home on Rainbow Street there are various items to brighten up any kitchen and make life easier. Choose from attractive clear storage jars, (JD 5,250 for a set of three), spice jars in a rack (JD 4,750 for five) and practical jugs with lids for JD 1,650. Also at Nour Home are some cane vegetable racks for JD 13,750 which have a large storage capacity.

— A Christian Dior headscarf from La Rose on Rainbow Street is sure to be appreciated. They cost JD 20 and are very useful accessories. Another idea is a shawl from the fabric souk at the end of King Talal Street downtown. The shawls are hand-woven and made of wool at a cost upwards from JD 7.

— A wooden jewelry box will neatly organise all her trinkets and keep them from

getting lost or scratched. The beauty store next to Baby Centre on Rainbow Street has all sizes and types from JD 15 to JD 38 with velvet linings and compartments for rings, bracelets, necklaces and earrings.

— Baskets are always good for storing various odds and ends, linen, and can also be used as plant holders. There are all shapes and sizes at the Craft Centre off Second Circle starting at JD 2 or you can get large baskets with lids made for you at the Straw Shop, Nazlet Ras Al 'Ain, off Third Circle costing about JD 5.

— A box of good chocolates is always appreciated especially when they are beautifully packaged. Choose from the selection at Patchi on Prince Mohammad Street which come in glass containers complete with ribbons and bows. Also good are the Neuhaus Belgium chocolates available at Fa Sha on Hawooz Circle, Jabal Luweibdeh. They are expensive, but worth it.

— An inexpensive, but nice gift could be some sweet-smelling lavender sachets available from the Gallery at the Intercontinental Hotel costing 500 fils each. They are perfect for putting in drawers. Also at the Gallery are many other gift ideas including embroidered purses, make-up bags, glasses cases and aprons as well as rope-plant hangers. However, one of the most practical and pretty gifts at the Gallery are the pastel laundry bags embroidered with a camel design. They can be hung on the wall or a door handle to keep the washing tidy or they can be used to conveniently hold babies nappies. At only JD 2 they make present giving easy, you could even buy one for yourself.

— Cushions brighten up a house and are lovely to re-

ceive. There is a good selection at Cadiz on Prince Mohammad Street starting at JD 6. If you have a sewing machine you could buy some beautiful material from the fabric souk downtown, some ready cut foam also from downtown and make your own to keep or give as a present.


— Receiving gold jewelry makes any woman feel very special. There is a wonderful choice at the gold souk downtown to suit all tastes from simple gold bangles to ornate earrings and necklaces. The prices vary according to the weight but you usually get good value and it is fun to shop or look there. A nice idea would be to buy a charm bracelet and add to it for anniversary or birthday presents.

— A lot of women spend a lot of time in the kitchen and the kitchen can easily be made more pleasant with a few colourful odds and ends. At Al Waha Department Stores you can find a cheerful collection of hotpads, oven gloves and tea towels that any cook would be glad to receive. They all cost JD 1,250 so you could easily afford to buy a set.

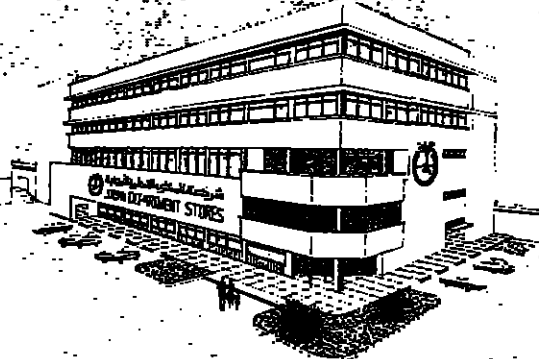
— Candles are always useful if not for a cosy dinner party, they can also be used in power cuts and also look attractive unlit and on display in candle holders. Finlandia has a large selection of gift candles from around JD 1 upwards at the store in Rainbow Street, past the British Council on the right. You could also include candle holders from Cadiz priced at JD 4,500.

— Al Waha Stores has plenty of good gift ideas including household utensils, toiletries, novelties and books. Well worth a browse if you are stuck for a present idea. Remember, if all else fails, a bunch of flowers will certainly be appreciated. (A.C.)

شركة الخازن التجارية العامة
Jordan Department Stores



THE
CHRISTMAS SPIRIT
IS AT
AL WAHA STORES.



Merry
Christmas
And a
Happy
New
Year!

Belittling Christmas — sacrilege to humanity itself

By 'Inad Khairallah

AS THE YEAR starts to wind up its eventful 11 months and prepare to herald the next in December, the first thing that is heard, more often than not when two people meet, is about Christmas and the New Year. How do you plan to spend the holidays; are you planning to go outside the country, (or just Aqaba), where are you hoping to celebrate the Christmas and New Year eves, these are some typical questions which come up.

I had been pestered with these kind of questions so much in the past that I have adopted a classic attitude which usually turns people off and discourages further discussions on the subject. Most of the time, people look at me distastefully and I put on a most serious expression, which normally manages to help me achieve my objective.

My classic attitude starts with a bland expression and a counter-question to the query on how I am going to spend the holidays: "What Christmas and what new year?"

Injustice to self

In fact, I am doing an injustice to myself and my past by this attitude. I still remember those childhood days when wished to have Christmas every month if not every week; so that the neighbouring Christian family would bring us some good food more often. I used to tell my friends not to come and visit me during Christmas lest they share with me the food.

However, my cynical attitude got me into a little trouble this year.

There was this friend of mine walking out of a travel agency who bumped into me. He started to let out a long curse but stopped short when he realised it was me. He peered at me to make sure I was not drunk that early in the morning. Hello, he said, "how are you? I was fine (until I met him, my look implied) I told him and, inquired as to how he was. Just fine, he replied and commented on my looking so healthy and vigorous.

"I am so glad to see you," he added, and I had to force a smile, although I did not have the least idea why he was glad. "I need some advice," he solved the mystery, "on how to go about spending the Christmas and New Year holidays in Cyprus."

I remembered that some time back I had told him that the Mediterranean island was one of the places I frequented during my short-term employment with a West German company marketing household items. But one thing I had very conveniently forgotten to mention was that my trips to the island were just stopovers for a few hours and I was the last person who could give some authoritative advice on how to spend holidays there.

"Let us have a cup of tea," my friend invited me and put his hands around my shoulders as if he feared I would give him the slip given the chance.

Force of habit

I never decline an offer of tea or lunch. "Have a tea/meal whenever possible, as you don't know when the next one will come along," goes the old saying.

So we walked towards a



nearby cafe and got comfortable seats there.

"Now tell me," my friend said, after ordering some coffee and biscuits, "how do you plan to spend your Christmas and New Year?" Force of habit made me put on the old bland expression and ask him: "What Christmas and New Year?"

For a fleeting second I could spot an expression of amazement and confusion in his eyes but it disappeared fast, to be replaced with a knowing, patronising look.

Disaster strikes

"How sad," he said, "after all these years, you still don't know what Christmas and New Year are? What a shame."

He lowered his voice as

the waiter approached us with the coffee and biscuits. My friend made sure I had a biscuit in my mouth before continuing: "Well, let me tell you about Christmas first." I almost choked myself to think I got myself into this mess, but I had no alternative. "Reap what you sow," reminds the old saying.

"Some 2,000 years ago, a carpenter's wife in Bethlehem delivered a boy," my friend started recital. "Since

the bank had claimed their house in return for a loan, they had no house and had to deliver the baby in a grotto," he explained.

"The boy grew up and it seems that he was lazy and did not like to follow his father's traditional occupation, and did not do any work," he

continued.

By this time I had gulped down the biscuit, but my friend made sure my mouth was occupied by offering me another one.

"The elders in the village were so ignorant that the boy could outwit them in arguments even at the age of 12," he went on. "The boy's reputation grew so much that he had to elope from the village to escape the tantalising eyes of maidens and the hard batons of the elders."

"And for about 16 years, there was no trace of the boy. No letters, no telegrams or telephones — not even when the father announced a reward," my friend paused to take a breath.

I gestured to my friend he would better have the coffee before it got cold, but he ignored me. "And then one day, he reappeared in the village sporting a long beard. Some said he had been in prison somewhere, some others said he had been shipwrecked, while others said he was just lazy to shave his beard off."

"Well, I would say he was wanted..." my friend stopped short as I raised my hands in surrender. "Do you know the rest of the story?" he asked. I nodded yes lowering my hands as well as eyes.

"Now that you know the full story behind Christmas, let me tell you about New Year," he said and sipped some coffee.

Surrender

Stop it, I pleaded to him, I knew all of the story behind New Year. "Are you sure?" he peered at me. Well, not all the stories but some, I told him, and won't he prefer to

enlighten me on the subject some other time?

"Well, then, now you tell me about how I can spend the holidays," he demanded and I was left with the option of either telling him I had not spent any holidays in Cyprus, or giving him a vivid, imaginary picture of how beautiful the island was with its cheap cost of living, and how interesting some of the sights were.

I opted for the truth and told him so. He looked at me critically and apparently believed me, especially that I advised him to approach a travel agency which would be glad to oblige him.

A 'smart' move

"Again, you did not tell me what you are going to do during the holidays," he asked me. I said I had heard about the various entertainments and gala functions being offered in town, but since I could not afford any of them, I preferred to remain at home listening to some of my favourite music.

"Now that's smart," he said. I thought he was referring to my plan for the holiday and tried to correct him. "It is not that I am trying to save money, but simply, I do not have the cash to pay," I said.

"No, no, I was not referring to your plans," he waved me away. "You were smart to have stopped me from further sacrilege."

Why did he commit sacrilege if he knew it was so, I asked him.

"It would have been a bigger sacrilege if I had allowed you to continue to adopt that cynical attitude towards something the whole world celebrates," he told me. "A sacrilege against humanity itself."

'Teddy bears are a psychological need'

By Barbara Bright
Reuter

NEW YORK — Those cuddly stuffed animals that are often a child's most treasured toy and the closet confidante of many adults may serve a genuine psychological need.

According to psychiatrist Dr. Paul Horton "stuffed animals offer solace to those who use them."

He told Reuters he often "prescribes" the plush toys for both children and adults, perhaps adding to sales that an American toy industry market report predicts will be worth more than \$500 million this year.

Dr. Horton, who lives in Meriden, Connecticut, traces the continued popularity of stuffed animals to what he calls their symbolic value in conflict resolution.

"The teddy bear can represent mother, father, other relationships," he said. "The person unconsciously relates to the presences or personages in the incarnation of the teddy bear and is able to work through or think through the difficulties."

The bear symbolised motherhood for ancient Greeks and was worshipped by American Indians.

The teddy bear remains far and away the most popular stuffed animal in America.

But controversy still rages over who popularised the teddy bear here — West Germany's Steiff company or the Ideal Toy Company, which no longer even makes them.

Walter Reid, manager of New York's Fao Schwarz Store, says Steiff animals, still-made largely by hand in Giengen, West Germany, the "caddillac" of the industry Swartz, which calls itself the world's largest toy store, has stuffed animals ranging in size from 7.5 centimetres to 1.5 metres and in price from \$6.95 to \$795.

They are displayed beside a colourful, beguiling book called "The Care and Feeding of Stuffed Animals" written by artist-turned-author Glen Knappe.

The book, whose title was named the second-oddest at this year's Frankfurt International Book Fair, was written to fill an obvious need, Mr. Knappe told Reuters.

How to care for 'stiffies'

"If you happen to be an owner of a dog or cat or a horse, you can buy book telling you how to take care of them. With stuffed animals there wasn't any kind of reference manual."

In the soothing style of best-selling author and paediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock, Mr. Knappe explores genus "stuffle" — as he calls a stuffed animal — gives tips on selection and offers advice.

On the value of "stiffies" as pets, he says: "Stuffed animals have very clean habits. They never soil or litter." On discipline: "Spanking is a futile exercise — rather like beating a pillow. Be firm, but gentle, and insist on correct behaviour. A good hug is always a nice ending."

On training: "Many owners make the mistake of attempting to teach their stiffies to hold still. They're already much better at it than you are."

Stuffed animals are good at tricks requiring patience, quiet and self-control (sitting up, hiding, listening), the book says, but not at soccer or basketball. "If it requires quick movements and strong muscles, a stuffie can't do it."

Mr. Knappe told Reuters he suppressed his interest in stuffed animals during his teens when his peers made fun of him. But he plans now to write other books on the subject.

"A published author is a couple of notches up from a crackpot," he said.

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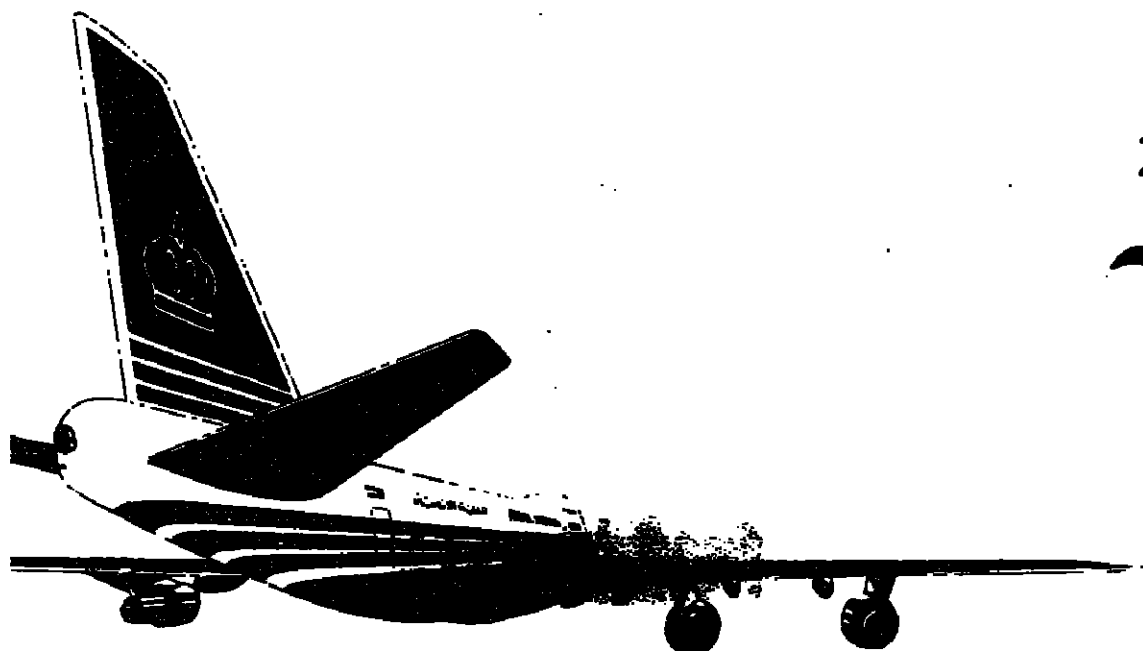
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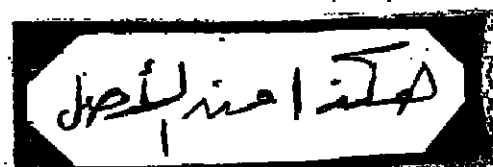
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4. Gifts for kids....



CHRISTMAS IS really for the children so this year spend a little extra time choosing special presents for them. In general, youngsters love any kind of present and the abundance of toy shops in Amman makes shopping for children easy but with a little imagination you can give durable, practical and educational toys at a reasonable price. Here are a few ideas for gifts and whilst wandering around the colourful toyshops you cannot help but get into the Christmas spirit.

— A Christmas stocking at the end of a child's bed will keep them happily amused while tired parents enjoy a bit of a lie-in. The secret is to pack it with lots of small presents that take time to unwrap and that can be played with immediately. A good-sized embroidered stocking that will last several years can be bought at the Craft Centre off Second Circle for JD 3 and many bookshops sell bright red plastic ones for about JD 1.

— Ideal stocking fillers include crayon sets and colouring books available at bookshops and libraries starting at 350 fils for books and varying prices for the crayons depending on the type and number. The Istiklal Library downtown and in Shmeisani has a large range of novelty rubbers in unusual shapes as well as pencil sharpeners and notebooks at around 550 fils.

— Little girls love to play with their hair and a collection of hair slides, coloured grips, ribbons and combs will keep them happy for quite a while. The Avon centre on Prince Mohammad Street has a good collection of hair decorations from 500 fils up to JD 1,500 for alic bands, and a collection of ribbons can be bought downtown at very reasonable prices. Also at the Avon centre are inexpensive plastic bangles for JD 1,500 in various colours. You could also put in a small mirror, available at pharmacies, so she can look at all her new adornments.

— The Mr. Men books are an ideal size for stockings and can be bought for 650 fils at the bookshop on First Circle.

Also at Al Waha stores near the Seventh Circle and the Amman Bookshop in the New Insurance Building at Third Circle there is a good selection of science, story, fun-to-make and educational books for children of all reading abilities.

— A set of farm animals, especially when a tractor is included, makes a good stocking present for boys. Also further toy farm equipment such as balers, combine harvesters, trailers and farm buildings could be the child's main gift and the collection can be added to for birthdays and on other occasions. Farm sets can be found at most good toy shops and the animals can be bought individually for 250 fils or in bags of various sizes.

— Plasticine is always good value and can be used time and again. The Istiklal Library has a selection starting at 850 fils, and for a change you can buy Mr. Men moulds for JD 1,250, also from Istiklal.

— Bubble bath makes bath time even more fun and it is always popular with children. It can be bought in containers shaped like fish, seals or whales for JD 1,600 at Green Valley supermarket or at various pharmacies. You could also include a wind-up toy that swims in the bath, available from Firas Bookshop for 950 fils.

— A super present for a child about to start nursery school is his or her own schoolbag containing a thermos flask and lunch box. They are available in all designs at Nour Home on Rainbow Street from JD 1,700. The added advantage is that they make picnics easier (as well) if you pack the flask, filled with juice, and a few small toys in the box, to save unpacking the picnic hamper when the child gets thirsty on the drive to the picnic site.

— Leggo is always an excellent gift for children as a variety of scenes can be constructed from even a small kit. Also, you can add to the set with Leggo people and cars. There is a good selection at the Sports and Activities centre starting at around JD 2,500 up to JD 11 for the classroom set. The

Scientific Bookshop in Shmeisani also has a selection of Duplo which is more suitable for younger children as the blocks are larger and easier to manage.

— The age of the computer is with us to stay and there is a wide range of video games available. The best value is the Home Entertainment Centre from the Amman Bookshop off Third Circle. The unit with two joysticks costs JD 59 and the cassettes start at JD 8 to provide hours of entertainment blasting aliens out of the sky or pitting your wits against the computer in games of logic. For a lot less money, in the range of JD 15-17, there are hand-held battery-operated games including football, basketball and the ubiquitous space invaders, all at the Amman Bookshop and Al Waha stores.

— Of course all boys love cars and they are even more exciting on a race track. There are a few road racing sets at the Wadi Sagra Bookshop and Sweet Baby on Prince Mohammad Street. A simple circuit with two cars starts at JD 9 and the sets go up to JD 25 with four lanes, flashing lights and death-defying loops. They really are fun as they come with decals for the cars, crash barriers, flags and scenery but don't forget to buy the batteries to avoid disappointment on Christmas Day.

— A special present could be a pedal-car or a bicycle for older children. There are a variety of pedal-cars on display in Al Waha Stores upstairs but the best choice of cars and bicycles is at Asfourco on Prince Mohammad Street. They are expensive, around JD 25 upwards, but they are tough and give hours of pleasure.

— The Doltchi toy shop in Rainbow Street has a good selection of Mattel "see and say" educational toys at JD 7,500 which help children learn as they play. Puzzles where pieces have to be fitted into the right hole are also good educational toys and are available in most good toy shops.

— Barbie dolls are a good choice of a present for girls as there is a whole wardrobe

and numerous accessories that can be bought as birthday presents to add to the collection. Barbie also has several friends, a horse and a dream house which together can create a whole world for a little girl. The Doltchi bookshop has an extensive range of clothes and extras for Barbie and is holding a free Christmas draw. Customers are eligible for a number of free tickets depending on the cost of the purchase.

— A tool set is a wonderful gift for any young boy as he can imitate his father and "help" to mend things around the house. There is a good selection of tool kits in the shops from plastic drills with various attachments to complete work benches with clamps, bits and accessories. All the drills are battery-operated for realistic effect. The simple sets start at JD 4,500 at Sweet Baby on Prince Mohammad Street whilst the work benches are at Al Waha Stores for around JD 10 upwards.

— Play People from Fisher Price are fun and imaginative toys for children. There is an extensive range complete with houses, schools, fire-engines, buses, cars etc. The sets are quite reasonable, starting at 750 fils and can be added to. An imaginary world can easily be created with just a few pieces.

— Jigsaw puzzles are super for the winter to keep children quietly amused. Al Waha Stores has a good range from large-piece puzzles for young children starting at 600 fils to intricate card board puzzles with 1500 pieces for JD 3,600. In addition, Al Waha has several wooden puzzle toys where the pieces have to be fitted in the right slot. These are priced at JD 5,900 and are excellent learning aids for younger children.

— Encourage creative play with hobby kits such as woodwork or tapestry. There is an excellent range of kits at the Art Supplies Centre on Second Circle in addition to educational toys at reasonable prices. A good present for a young girl is a set of knitting needles and brightly coloured assorted

wool in a basket. This simple inexpensive present keeps a child busy making scarves for her dolls for a long time.

— A brightly coloured Noddy alarm clock will delight any child on Christmas morning and encourage them to tell the time. They can be found at Al Waha Stores for JD 2,500.

— Board games such as Monopoly, Cluedo, Snakes and Ladders and Scrabble are always popular and there is an excellent choice in the shops.

— A Christmas party dress would be welcomed by any fashion-conscious girl and there is a good selection at "My Baby" on Rainbow Street and at La Cicogna at the Fifth Circle. The dresses are expensive, from JD 20, but they are special and would become her favourite item of clothing.

— Let the children make music this Christmas with a marching band set consisting of a drum, cymbals, mouth organ and tambourine made by Fisher Price. The set costs JD 12 at Sweet Baby. Alternatively you could buy a recorder from Twang near the Third Circle priced from JD 1,850 to JD 4.

— Sweets and chocolates are more than acceptable to young children as gifts. Most supermarkets have a selection of chocolate San-



tas, tree decorations and filled stockings that would make a last minute gift. If you have left your sho-

pping until the last minute, Al Waha Stores will save the day and save driving around the jabbals. Their extensive

toy, stationary and gift sections are bound to have something for the youngsters. (A.C.)

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5... For one & all

SOMETIMES IT is possible to get one gift that would suit more than one person or that you can give to a family. The following list may help out if you are short of time or ideas.

— A calendar for 1984 would be an ideal gift for anyone. At the Hallmark shop in Jabal Luweibdeh there is a good choice from landscapes to cartoon animals, some serious and others amusing. The calendars start at JD3.500.

— Every household has magazines and newspapers that cluster up the place and that are often misplaced when you want to read a particular article. A cane magazine rack from Bits and Pieces in Abdali can solve the problem. They cost JD 15 and are attractive in any room.

— Some homemade biscuits in an earthenware cookie jar with a cork lid make a good gift for a family. The cookie jar is available at Al Waha

Department Stores for JD 4.250, or alternatively, the biscuits could go in attractive round tins costing JD 2.150 also from Al Waha.

— Hand-painted ceramic wall tiles with traditional designs make excellent gifts for anyone. They can be bought from the Craft Centre, off Second Circle, for between JD 5 and JD 7.

— If you know anyone with a video you could get a voucher from Video Hawaii near the Fifth Circle to give to your friends. You pay JD 1.250 for the hire of each tape and your friend can choose which ones they would like to view.

— A fondue set is a super gift to receive as it can be used for informal dinners and easy suppers and add variety to the menu. Stainless steel sets are available at Nour Home on Rainbow Street for JD 21.500.

— Photo albums are always a useful gift and come in all colours and sizes at Sal-

bashian in Wadi Saqra Street. There is also a good selection at the Wadi Saqra bookshop.

— Nativity scenes are decorative and special gifts to give at Christmas. Some beautiful sets carved out of olive wood can be found in souvenir shops for about JD 10 and the Amman Bookshop has small nativity scenes for JD 6.

— A Brass carriage clock from Al Waha Department Stores will add charm to any mantle-piece or shelf and is a decorative time keeper for JD 19.250.

— No one can have enough cushions in their home so they are a safe present to give. Choose from the range at Cadiz on Prince Mohammad Street at various prices starting at JD 6.

— Also at Cadiz are beautiful rigid perspex trays with a smoky effect throughout. They are expensive at JD 27.500 but they are large and practical as well as looking

good. Cadiz is full of unusual gifts and is worth visiting if you are stuck for gift ideas.

— The Amman Bookshop stocks a selection of birthday, address and telephone books in a variety of designs. They make very practical presents for any one and cost between 750 fils and JD 1.250. Also at the Amman Bookshop are diaries and day planners from JD 2 to JD 7.500.

— Thermos flasks are ideal for picnics, especially when they have compartment for food. Thermos picnic flasks are available in household stores around town for JD 4.750.

— Treat someone special to a night out at the Royal Cultural Centre to see a ballet, musical concert or a play. There is always something going on and many international artists appear regularly, so watch out for forthcoming events and take a friend for a treat.

— A family would always welcome a Christmas hamper full of provisions, even more so if you include some chocolate Santas which

start at 600 fils at supermarkets. Buy a basket from the Craft Centre, off Second Circle, and fill it with fruit, cheeses and canned goods. Khalaf Stores in Jabal Luweibdeh has a good selection of foodstuffs and you could include a bottle of wine as well. Don't forget to tie a bow or ribbon on the handle of the basket for an extra touch.

— An original painting is a very special gift to receive and will always be treasured. The Gallery at the Intercontinental Hotel has a range of original paintings from JD 12 to JD 600 framed or unframed. In addition, there is also a selection of unframed prints from JD 5 to JD 45. If you are keen on art it is worth going along to the Royal Cultural Centre where there is currently an exhibition of young Jordanian artists' work. The prices are very reasonable starting at JD 15 to JD 70 and you never know whether you will pick up a piece that will become valuable. A landscape of Jordan would be a lovely gift for anyone.

— Still on the theme of Jordan, there are some lovely books on the country that are very informative and interesting that could give someone more of an insight to Jordan. Two very good books are the MEED guide to Jordan and the book "Jordan" which each cost JD 6. Most bookshops stock these kind of books but the best choice can be found at the Baptist Bookshop on Salt Road.

— A Christmas turkey would be another good gift; Rainbow Supermarket has many imported turkeys in stock but most of the larger supermarkets have them at this time of year.

— For hobbyists or craft enthusiasts, the Art Supplies Centre, off Second Circle, offers assembled kits with everything one needs to enjoy leisure time activities. The kits are priced at about JD 5 to JD 9.

— Take someone special out for an Arabic meal and enjoy the tasty local food. Abu Ahmad's, near Third Circle, is a good bet as is the El Bustan restaurant located behind the Jordan Times offices.

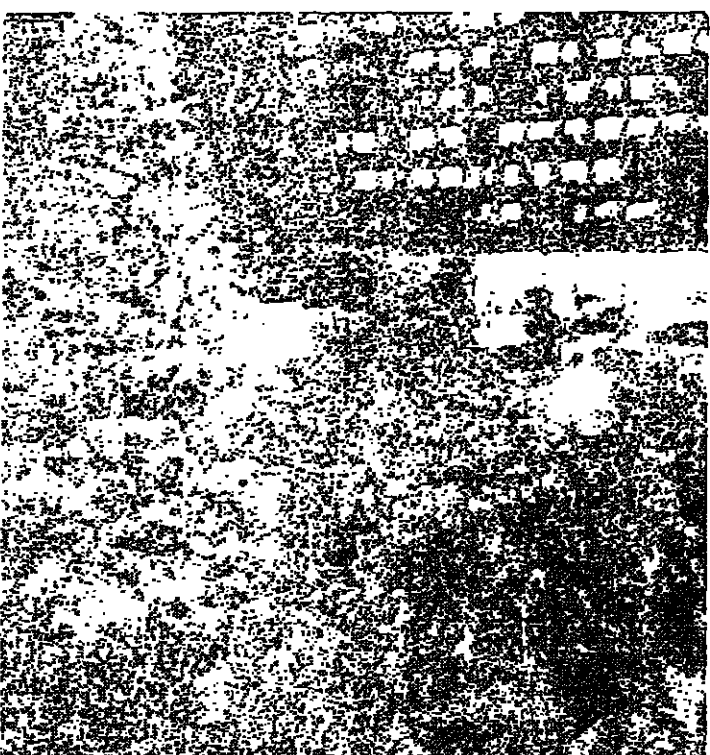


— Many people would appreciate some ceramic decorations, crockery or a vase from the Amra pottery shop near the Commodore Hotel in Shmeisani. All the goods are made from local clay by a group of young artists and the prices are very reasonable. Choose your gifts from the selection of attractive ceramics on display.

— Picnic in style with bright durable picnic ware available at Al Waha Stores starting at 450 fils for each item. There are practical containers with snap on lids and a range of items to suit your needs. As a special gift for someone you could pack a selection of picnic ware in a locally-made cane or straw basket all ready for the spring.

— Shopping facilities are really quite good in Amman and with a little imagination you can give some very special gifts this year. (A.C.)

WHERE TO GO THIS CHRISTMAS



By Salameh B. Ne'matt

EVERY YEAR Hotels and clubs in Jordan celebrate Christmas, each in its own way and style presenting various types of entertainment to mark the happy occasion during which people prepare themselves for the New Year which is in this case 1984.

At the Amman Marriott Hotel, Christmas carols will be sung by the Marriott madrigals beginning Dec. 16 until Dec. 25 between 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. They will start the singings in the lobby and stroll to the restaurants. The Marriott madrigals — four males and four females — will sing 22 Christmas carols and serenades and Christmas medley songs. Santa Claus will be in the lobby on Dec. 22, 23, and 24 to greet the children between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. A special Christmas tree will decorate the lobby.

At Al Mansaf restaurant, a luncheon and dinner buffet will be offered on Dec. 24, and a luncheon on Dec. 25 at a price of JD 8.500 per person. Dinner on Dec. 25 will be a regular menu plus food creations of the Christmas chef. Al Rababa and the lobby bar will be open for the usual working hours.

At Al Rababa night club there will be a hors d'oeuvres buffet in a disco atmosphere with Charles Metropolis, starting 9:00 p.m. The theme for this year is "Flashdance" with Ariel, the in-house disco star.

Price JD 10.000 per person excluding alcoholic beverages. At Al Waha Ballroom, a full gala dinner along with live entertainment with "Rotor" and a mini show will await you with champagne toast at midnight. (Price JD 38.000 per head). Drawings for prizes will start at 11:00 p.m., three prizes at Al Rababa night club and three at Al Waha ballroom.

The Amra Forum Hotel is celebrating Christmas in

style this year. Starting off in the lobby on Dec. 20 with the decoration of the Christmas tree and the siting of a Christmas barrel, for donations to the needy. After all, Christmas is a season of goodwill.

Dec. 20 will also see the start of a 10-day sale of Christmas cakes, yule logs and mince pies, so why not escape yourself from the botheration of doing the baking.

Amra is also offering to the busy housewife another time saver — the provision of Christmas lunch, ready to take home. A choice of either roast Norfolk turkey with all the trimmings, stuffing, cranberry sauce and chipolata sausages are succulent York ham, will be prepared for you to order. From Dec. 22 you will be able to enjoy spiced wines, mince pies, special coffees and other delights in the luxurious atmosphere of the Oasis Lounge.

On Christmas Eve, Amra provides an overwhelming choice. To start with, at the Amra coffee shop, there is a festive dinner featuring terrine of duckling with Cumberland sauce, cream of mushroom soup, roast Norfolk turkey with glazed ham and a choice of either yule log or Christmas pudding with brandy sauce, coffee and mince pies. In the Jericho Room restaurant, there is a special gala dinner with dancing to the music of the Mike Paul band.

On Christmas Eve running into Christmas day, the Shehrazad disco, featuring Amra's disc jockey James Gordon, there is a special "red and white" party where all those dressed in red and white will receive a special free cocktail. On Christmas day at the Wadi Rum bar, you can celebrate with your friends and sample the mince pies and canapes provided free by hotel and staff of Amra.

In the coffee shop meanwhile, there will be a special Christmas buffet for JD 6

per adult and JD 4 for children. In the Jericho Room restaurant there is the traditional Christmas luncheon and rumour has it that Santa Claus will be calling in there, on his way back to the North Pole, with presents for all the children eating there. And so on to the New Year's Eve.

Once again the excellent Mike Paul band is featured at the Jericho Room with a gala dinner to ring the old year out and ring the New Year in. The Shehrazad disco will also be open from 9:00 p.m. "until the last person leaves." The coffee shop will also be open all night so you can stop off there and have the first breakfast of the New Year. On the New Year's day, there will be a special New Year brunch at the Jericho Room with a large glass of Bucks Fizz included for those who can face it.

Intercontinental already on

The Jordan Intercontinental Hotel has already started celebrating its year-end festivities on Dec. 6 with the sales of Christmas pastry specialties until Jan. 6 at the Cafe Boulevard. The cold of the winter can be thwarted from Dec. 15 at the Al Hannah Pub with a jug of Gluchwein bolstered up with mince pies. The Home and Garden Club will celebrate the year end with a Christmas party on Dec. 19.

The El Pasha disco welcomes Shalee, the lively ladies from the U.K. who will be performing from Dec. 20, right through the New Year. On Dec. 24 the UKAZ club will be staging its annual party at the Badiyah room. The Jordan Intercontinental Hotel will hold a Christmas lunch buffet at Al Mukhtar Ballroom followed closely by a special Christmas party for children at 4:00 p.m. Elegant dining is to be experienced at the Crown Rotisserie with Christmas foyers from 7:30 on the evening of Christmas day.

The New Year's Eve will be celebrated by the American University Club (AUC) in the Al Mukhtar Ballroom and the American University of Beirut (AUB) alumni club at the Al Badiyah room. Those who like to spend the New Year in quiet style will join the gala dinner at the Crown with music by the Amman Trio. The El Pasha disco will be open until 1984.

Those who had too much fire can join the Risens Repast at 4:00 p.m. in the Okaz restaurant. The Crown Rotisserie will feature a fine buffet on Jan. 1. All in all, the Intercontinental will be ensuring that its guests start the year on the right note.

'Holidays' throughout

The Holiday Inn will have all of its food and beverage

outlets open over the Christmas and New Year period. The ambassadors nightclub will have a nightly show of live music and dance, featuring the "Images" show band, the "Aristocrats" floor show and a belly dancer. The Dukes bar will have a nightly show from 7 p.m. featuring Chantilly, a musical trio.

Le Relais French restaurant, the Ranch steakhouse and Churchills Coffeehouse will have special Christmas menus in addition to their normal menus. Special functions will be held also on Dec. 23 including a children's Christmas party at the Amman Ballroom from 4:00 to 6:30.

On Dec. 24, there will be a Christmas Eve dinner at the Ambassador Night Club. On Dec. 27 there will be a dinner dance also at the Ambassador Night Club and New Year's party will be at the Churchill Room.

On Dec. 29 evening a fancy dress ball will be staged in the Ambassadors Nightclub. The New Year's Eve will be celebrated at the Ambassadors nightclub, the Amman Ballroom and Reginas Disco from 9 p.m. onwards. On Jan. 1st, there will be a special New Year's Day buffet lunch in the Amman Ballroom from 12 noon until 3 p.m. Tickets for all functions are available from the front office cashier in the hotel lobby.

Jerusalem International

The Jerusalem International, Melia hotel is staging children's Christmas parties on Dec. 23 and 24 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the Royal Restaurant. On Dec. 25 there will be a special luncheon buffet from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at Al Yarmouk restaurant. On New Year's Eve, two parties will be held; one from 9:00 p.m. until the last person leaves the Royal restaurant and the other at Al Andalus

restaurant to the music of the Super Orchestra playing Arabic and international music. There will also be special live oriental and international entertainment shows with a lot of gifts and surprises. On Jan. 1, there will be a special luncheon buffet from 1 until 3 p.m. at Al Yarmouk Restaurant.

Orthodox plans

At the Orthodox Club, there will be a dinner dance every Thursday and Saturday night, music by the Pilots and singer Nabeel Fakhouri throughout the Christmas season. On Dec. 16 there will be Christmas

shopping all day. On Dec. 23 a children's Christmas party from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. will be held. Tickets sold at the club for JD 2.500, per child. For the New Year's Eve, there will be a special dance dinner to the accompaniment of music by the Pilots and singer Nabeel Fakhouri. Tickets sold at the club for JD 20.000 per person.

Le Cesar

Le Cesar is celebrating with the decoration of the Christmas tree and starting with a children's party on Dec. 19 from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. during which gifts and presents will be distributed by Santa Claus and music played by the Survivors.

On the evening of Dec. 24, there will be a gala dinner dance party with Oriental and international music. On New Year's Eve, there will be a special dinner dance party with music by the Survivors during which presents will be distributed and there will be a draw on tickets for prizes.

Regency Palace

The Regency Palace Hotel is holding a children's Christmas buffet lunch party on Dec. 23 with a puppet show on the same day from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. On Dec. 24 there will be a gala dinner party in

Hala Inn

The Hala Inn hotel is starting its year-end festivities on Dec. 24 with open luncheon and dinner buffets of continental hot and cold dishes at the roof top restaurant with a beautiful view of Amman at night.

There will also be a continental lunch buffet Sunday and Friday always with the music of the Friends band. Also from Dec. 24 until the New Year's Day there will be a nightly show of Oriental music and songs by Anton Shamoun, Hanan Mansour, Siham Safadi and Mohammad Waheeb during which presents and gifts will be distributed with a lot of surprises.

San Rock

The San Rock Hotel will be holding a Christmas dinner buffet for families only at Al Qasr night club on New

(AND NEW YEAR)



Year's Eve with English French and Arabic singers and an entertainment programme with Arab actors Yasseen Bakoushe. (JD 15.000 per person).

Also on the New Year's Eve, the disco, Cavern Club, will be open for couples only. Sangria with Christmas carols JD 5.000 per person. In the coffee shop the San Rock Hotel is holding a special Christmas dinner buffet for JD 5.500, per person.

Um Uthaina

The newly opened Um Uthaina Hotel will start its Christmas festivities with a season of joy and cheer on Dec. 25 with a special and traditional buffet lunch and dinner at the Blue Room restaurant. There will be also a Christmas party for children with a lot of surprises and special treats.

On Dec. 25 the Red Cave disco will be open from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. There is a special Christmas dinner party at the Green Room roof-top night club.

For the New Year's Eve, Um Uthaina Hotel promises to greet the 1984 dawn with champagne and cheer. There will be a gala dinner dance with a live band at the Blue Room restaurant open for everybody.

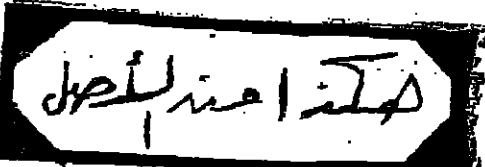
The Commodore Hotel is also holding a children's

Christmas party on Dec. 25 from 4 to 7 p.m. The hotel will have a nightly live Oriental and international show with the Tigers band and Fouad Hijazi and Noura from Dec. 25 until the New Year. The Commodore hotel welcomes its guests throughout all the Christmas season to the daily show at the Commodore nightclub.

— On the New Year's Eve, the San Rock Hotel is celebrating Christmas with grand dinner buffet at Al Qasr roof-top night club with Arabic, English and French singers and the famous Arab actors, Naji Jaber and Yasseen Bakoushe, and the famous Syrian singer, Daoud Radwan. Reservations can be done for families only. Reservation on the piste can be made for not less than 10 persons.

— In the Disco Cavern Club there will be snacks, games and surprises for JD 7.000 per person and for couples only. In the Galaxy bar a special New Year's Eve will be celebrated with lots of beer in an atmosphere of an English pub.

— The Middle East hotel is celebrating Christmas on Dec. 25 with a dancing party at the Ashtarout Disco. On Dec. 31 there will be a dinner party in the Ammon Room and a party in the coffee shop and another party in the Ashtarout Disco, all parties will include lots of gifts and surprises.



A new birthday dress for Miss Liberty

By John B. Holway

NEW YORK — The lady with the torch, the world's best known — and biggest — statue, whose beacon has welcomed some 20 million immigrants to New York harbour, will soon begin getting all dressed up for her birthday.

She'll be 100 years old July 4, 1986, and, beginning this January, workmen will start the two-year job of getting her ready for the party.

A public fund-raising drive is raising \$25 million for the job. Children are holding bake sales and washing cars to collect dollars. Bob Hope and other stars will host dinners to raise big contributions. Thirteen foreign countries have sent in contributions, including some with political differences with Washington, such as Nicaragua.

"Everyone wants to get involved," says David Moffitt, the National Park Service's superintendent of the statue.

Another \$200 million is being sought to renovate nearby Ellis Island, which for 60 years served as the immigration point for people coming to the United States. It's estimated that four out of every ten present-day Americans can trace at least one ancestor who arrived at Ellis Island.

When that work is completed, officials hope, Ellis Island will be both a museum and a modern international conference centre, where future summit conferences and other meetings will be held.

But that is a longer-term goal. First priority is going to Miss Liberty.

The statue — about 50 metres from foot to torch-tip — was the gift of France in 1886. It was built

by sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, with engineering help from Alexander Gustave Eiffel, who would later build the Eiffel tower.

Originally, Bartholdi conceived of a figure representing Western civilisation passing its torch to the East, it was to stand at the head of the Suez Canal. But after a trip to the United States, Bartholdi conceived the new idea of Liberty, nurtured in the new world, the rays from its torch streaming back to light the way for old.

A public fund-raising drive in France raised \$400,000 to build the statue, and Bartholdi set to work in Paris. Hundreds of Parisians came each day to watch the statue slowly take shape, and by 1884 the head of the statue rose above the rooftops of Paris.

A bronze statue was considered but rejected as too heavy. Instead the statue was made of 200 tons of hand-hammered shiny copper the thickness of two pennies, supported on Eiffel's iron framework.

Then Miss Liberty was dismantled and packed into 85 separate crates for its journey by train and ship to New York harbour.

Meanwhile Americans were raising \$270,000 for the 30-metre pedestal on which the statue would stand. The drive was led by Joseph Pulitzer, the newspaper magnate, himself an immigrant from Hungary.

In October 1886 the crates arrived and the final job of reconstruction began.

More than 300,000 immigrants arrived that year and were processed at the tip of Manhattan Island. But the flood of immigration increased so fast that larger facilities were needed, and Ellis Island was opened in 1892.

Beginning that year 17 million people sailed past Miss Liberty —

labourers, maids, peasants, blacksmiths, artisans. They streamed off their ships and onto Ellis Island — 2,251 arrived on the first day it was opened, Jan. 1, 1892. With their baggage in their hands or over their shoulders, they climbed the stairs to "the great hall" for medical and legal examinations.

Were they healthy — could they climb the stairs without wheezing or limping? Did they have any contagious diseases? heart disease? eye problems? those who were suspect were given a full examination upstairs. Those with curable problems were treated in the hospital building. Those with incurable diseases were sent back.

Next came the legal exam. With identification tags on their jackets, each immigrant was asked 30 questions in two minutes. The questions were in English, but interpreters were present: Name? Birthplace? Home? Destination? Any money? Any relatives in America? Do you have a job? Any criminal record?

Some were to meet fiancés who were waiting, and many a marriage took place on the spot.

Within five hours most immigrants were on their way, some by ferry to New York to live, others by ferry to the opposite shore, New Jersey, for trains to their new homes.

Between 1905 and 1914 an average of one million immigrants arrived each year. About two per cent were sent home for medical or legal reasons.

Ellis Island was closed in 1954, and most of the buildings fell into disrepair. Tourists may still visit the site to see where their grandparents or parents — and often they themselves — first set foot on U.S. soil.

Lawyer Louis Nizer, who arrived at Ellis Island with his mother

in 1902 at the age of three to meet his father, returned to Ellis Island recently and recalled that he had been wearing a sailor suit, "and tears were everywhere when my father met us."

James Reston, New York Times editor, who passed through Ellis Island from Scotland as a boy in 1910, says the Statue of Liberty was "the promise, but Ellis Island was the reality."

Now Lee Iacocca, president of Chrysler Motors, leads the campaign to raise money to restore Ellis Island. Both his parents arrived from Italy via Ellis Island.

"We want it to be a really moving experience to come here," he says. "We don't want a shrine, we want the place to come alive."

Now Miss Liberty will begin undergoing repairs and refurbishing for her centennial.

Will the torch have to come down? That question is still "up in the air," figuratively as well as literally, Mr. Moffitt says. By January the scientists expect to give their answer.

Even if the torch does come down for repair, another beacon will replace it temporarily. Moffitt expects the repair work to be as big a tourist attraction as the statue itself. Whether the statue will have to be closed for short periods is not known yet, but even if it is, the island itself will remain open to visitors to watch the work in progress.

The statue's copper skin is in "very good shape," Mr. Moffitt says. The only question seems to be whether to clean off the greenish patina of a century and return her to the gleamy new-penny brightness of her arrival.

Mr. Moffitt adamantly favours retaining the familiar green patina

and says mail from the public is running 20-1 in support of his view. Miss Liberty will probably remain her present green.

The cross bars to which the skin is attached are also in good shape "for the most part," Mr. Moffitt says. However, many of the now rusted rivets will have to be replaced.

It is the intricate network of armature, the criss-crossed iron skeleton of 2,000 iron bars that supports the statue from the inside, which is most in need of repair. These have weakened after a century of stress and will probably be replaced by new bars of stainless steel or a nickel alloy.

Mr. Moffitt says officials have abandoned the idea of putting an elevator in, although the present elevator that takes tourists from the ground to the statue's foot may be enlarged. A new staircase was also considered but rejected. The present stairs, with 171 steps, takes people to the crown. The upper arm and torch have been closed to visitors since 1916.

The work will go on until July 4, 1986. Funds are coming in steadily, Mr. Moffitt says. Meanwhile, events will go forward leading to the climatic celebration in 1986.

On July 4, 1984, the centennial of the gift of the statue from the people of France will be marked with a nationally televised ceremony.

In the spring of 1985, a gala event with international stars will launch a summer-long international cultural and entertainment festival. Countries of the world are invited to participate, each country to have its own day at the statue.

At the beginning of 1986, top entertainers will join in a 100-day



The Statue of Liberty will be 100 years old on July 4, 1986. (File photo).

period of celebrations for all 50 states.

On July 4, 1986, a huge assembly of tall ships from around the world is expected to be the biggest such gathering ever, larger even than those which came to celebrate the nation's 200th birthday in 1976. There will also be parades and the world's largest fireworks display.

Finally, on Oct. 28, 1986, the newly restored statue will be unveiled and rededicated to the ideals of the poem by Emma Lazarus now found on a bronze plaque at its base:

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

—USIA

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SPORTS

Hamburg quells player revolt for Aberdeen game

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — Hamburg's management on Monday moved to crush a players' revolt and named controversial strikers Dieter Schatzschneider and Wolfram Wuttke for Tuesday's return European 'Super' Cup soccer match against Aberdeen of Scotland.

Hamburg, held to a goalless draw by Aberdeen in the first home leg, led the first division table early on but had slumped to fifth place when the season was interrupted for the winter break last weekend.

For Tuesday night's match in Aberdeen trainer Ernst Happel has not included international defender Manfred Kaltz in the starting line-up. Kaltz, 30, has not played for seven weeks because of injury, but reported fit on Sunday.

The significance of Hamburg's recent run of bad luck is not lost on Aberdeen manager Alex Ferguson as his team go into the second leg favourably placed to follow last year's winners, Aston Villa of England.

Ferguson stressed: "Hamburg will be anxious to restore West German pride. It is something of a slap in the face to have no representative left in the European competition and they will feel they have got to beat us."

No West German team has reached the quarter-finals of the European competitions this season — for the first time since 1957.

"They are also out of the Eur-

opean Cup and were beaten in the final of the World Club Championship, so this is their last chance to salvage something," Ferguson added.

Injury and suspension have robbed Ferguson of both his full backs, Neale Cooper and Doug Rougvie, and the Aberdeen manager will decide on Rougvie's replacement on Tuesday.

The choice lies between the experience of John McMaster, who played in the Cup Winners' Cup final against Real Madrid, but has not figured for two months, or the younger Ian Angus.

"I'd rather play Schatzschneider and Wuttke alongside a bunch of amateurs than

have a team meeting tell me which players to leave out," Hamburg President Wolfgang Klein said Monday over the latest crisis to hit the faltering European Cup holders.

His comment followed a crisis meeting held by most of the team on Sunday at which the two players came under fire over Hamburg's recent run of poor performances.

After a three-hour meeting with manager Gunter Netzer, team captain Felix Magath Monday pledged a new beginning for Hamburg "with Schatzschneider and Wuttke."

It was Magath who complained after the team's 2-1 defeat by Gremio of Brazil in the World Club Championship match in Tokyo last Sunday that the two players were "unbearable."

Magath said in a statement he regretted that the meeting had given the false impression the team was putting pressure on the management.

Chandler avenges only loss of career

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (R) — World Boxing Association (WBA) bantamweight champion Jeff Chandler avenged the only defeat of his career when he stopped fellow American Oscar Muniz in the seventh round of a scheduled 15-round title fight.

Referee Vincent Rainone ended the contest 23 seconds into the seventh round on Sunday after examining a deep cut over the left eye of fourth-ranked Muniz, who scored a points victory over Chandler in a non-title bout last July.

Chandler, 27, opened the gash over the challenger's eye in the second round. Muniz, particularly vulnerable to the hard rights thrown by Chandler, was later taken to hospital with a suspected fractured jaw.

"It was forward progress," Chandler said. "I was stepping into my punches. The first time (against Muniz), with one week's notice, I was just standing up there throwing punches. I had no legs. I was out of shape."

Chandler, who said he was more motivated for this fight because his title was at stake, improved his record to 33 wins.



Claudia Ostlender wins Ladies Cup

COLOGNE (DaD) — Claudia Ostlender, Federal Republic of Germany, won this year's Ladies Cup, scoring the highest number of points in six qualifying races at the wheel of a Ford Fiesta. Next season the competition, which is open to all women over 18, will be officially authorised by the governing body of motor racing (FISA). The 1984

season will begin on 27 May at Mainz airport, followed by a Nurburgring event. The 100hp Ford Fiesta XR2 will be driven by all competitors. Apart from safety features and a special racing exhaust and chassis it is the standard model and has a top speed of 180kph (113mph), say the manufacturers, Ford of Cologne.

Zurbriggen wins super giant slalom

VAL GARDENA, Italy (R) — Pirmia Zurbriggen swept through driving snow to win a World Cup super giant slalom Monday and give the Swiss team their fifth win in seven World Cup events this season.

Zurbriggen's prowess in training for the super giant, which combines the speed and endurance of downhill with the technical skill of slalom, has earned him the nickname 'Mr. Super G'. But this was his first World Cup win in the event.

"The visibility wasn't too good and I had to keep wiping snow from my goggles," the lanky 29-year-old said after his run. "But I decided to keep up my speed and not worry about it."

"Conditions were pretty bad at the top, but not as bad as at Val d'Isere (France). I nearly came off the course several times, but there was good, hard artificial snow under the new snow."

The win in one minute 35.33 seconds puts Zurbriggen on top of the overall World Cup standings on 97 points, 10 ahead of compatriot Franz Heinzer, who came sixth on Monday.

Hiroshima to host World Marathon Cup

MANILA (R) — Hiroshima, devastated by an atom bomb in the World War II, will stage the first World Marathon Cup in April 1985, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said here Monday.

The federation also announced a series of new championships,

including an annual Grand Prix for track and field starting in 1985.

IAAF President Primo Nebiolo told reporters after a three-day meeting of the federation's council: "We believe the Marathon Cup will have special importance. It will show all the people want to live in peace and friendship."

"There were many other proposals but we decided to award the cup to Japan," he said. London, Montreal, Seoul, Buffalo and Vienna were also bidding to host the Marathon Cup.

The council also approved staging the World Cup in Canberra from October 5 to 7, 1985 and the second World Championships in Rome, probably in August 1987.

The IAAF council agreed to propose Junior World Championships at its next congress in Los Angeles in the summer. It will back another proposal to hold world indoor games.

Nebiolo said the first junior championships were expected to be held in 1986 and at least 12 countries had shown interest in staging the inaugural event.

Details of the Grand Prix are still being worked out but officials said they wanted to bring various international athletics events under one umbrella.

Before entering the Grand Prix, they said, athletes taking part in various international meetings would be awarded points. The athlete with most points would win the Grand Prix and receive a cash prize and a gold medal.

West German soccer in doldrums

By Paul Radford
Reuter

BONN — The West German soccer season starts its annual winter break this week but the public foresees over the dramatic decline in the nation's football fortunes shows no sign of abating.

West Germans, reared on decades of success, find it hard to swallow that for the first time ever none of their sides have reached the quarter-finals of the three European club competitions.

Even worse, patriotic pride has been humbled by the sight of the once-mighty national side stumbling at home against lowly opposition and only just scraping into next year's European Championship finals.

The media and fans, in a desperate and almost hysterical search for scapegoats, are pointing the finger of blame in two directions — at national trainer Jupp Derwall and at the country's top players.

Derwall is accused of everything from faulty selection to pampering players, while the stars are under fire for being overpaid and lacking the will to win.

Such simplistic answers beg the real question — what, if anything, has gone wrong with West German soccer?

The evidence for decline looks overwhelming. Bayern Munich were the only West German side from six starters left in this season's European competitions after the second round.

When they crashed out of the UEFA Cup at the hands of England's Tottenham Hotspur last week, the unthinkable had happened — not a single West German team left in Europe.

In the previous 10 years West German clubs had dominated Europe, providing no less than eight trophy winners and 15 finalists.

Just four seasons ago West Germany monopolised the UEFA Cup with four of its team disputing the semifinals, while a fifth — Hamburg — reached the European Cup final the same year.

Hamburg, last May's European Champions, epitomised the ills besetting the West German game.

They were surprisingly dumped out of this season's European Cup by Romania's Dinamo Bucharest and were outplayed by Gremio of Brazil last Sunday in the World Club Championship, losing 2-1 after extra time.

Bayern Munich trainer UDO Lattek recently lamented: "There are no top-calibre teams in the Bundesliga (first division)."

Lattek, who has brought in several youngsters in an effort to rebuild the team after the retirement of midfielder star Paul Breitner, said he was surprised Bayern were still able to challenge for the league title.

In recent years the Bundesliga has often turned into a two-horse race between Bayern and Hamburg but this season no less than seven teams, including unfashionable Bayer Leverkusen, are in with a chance at the halfway stage.

Most experts believe, however, that the lack of outstanding sides is a temporary phenomenon and that West Germany could soon bounce back.

Stuttgart, inspired by Icelandic midfielder Asger Sigurvinsson, lead the league by one point from Bayern. But the Munich side boast the best defensive Jean-Marie Pfaff.

The fact that these two foreigners have been the stars of the season so far is no comfort for Derwall as he attempts to find a team worthy of defending the European title won in Rome in 1980.

West Germany's international record in the past 12 years is second to none.

World Cup winners in 1974 and runners-up in 1982, the West Germans also reached all three European Championship finals in the period, winning twice and losing the other — in 1976 against Czechoslovakia — only in a penalty play-off.

But the side which lost 1-0 at home to Northern Ireland last month in a European Cha-

mpionship qualifier and trailed by the same score to Albania, of all people, four days later was a pale shadow of the great teams of the past.

Albania failed by only 10 minutes to deny the West Germans a ticket to next summer's finals in France when Gerd Strack, Cologne's big sweeper, headed the home side's 2-1 winner.

Derwall has been under such constant media attack since the 1982 World Cup finals that Hamburg trainer Ernst Happel, who has often criticised Derwall in the past, commented: "I feel sorry for him. He has not deserved this."

Even West German captain Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, normally loyal to the national trainer, was recently quoted as saying: "If I were Derwall, I would consider resigning."

Many trainers feel Derwall is being unfairly blamed for the fact that West Germany no longer has a collection of world class players of the calibre of Franz Beckenbauer, Gerd Mueller, Guenter Netzer, Paul Breitner and Sepp Maier.

He also has the problem of dealing with soccer Prima Donnas who refuse to appear for the national team if they are dropped or played out of position.

For example, no less than four current Hamburg players, including stars such as Manfred Kaltz and Felix Magath, have said they will no longer represent their country.

Despite the present slump it would be rash to bet against West Germany doing well in France.

In Rummenigge, goalkeeper Toni Schumacher, centre-back, Karl-Heinz Foerster and new striker Rudi Voeller, Derwall has the nucleus of a good team.

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TIME

EUROPE'S BLOODY WEEK (Tragedies in Madrid, Amsterdam and London)

MOSCOW TAKES ANOTHER WALK (From MBFR talks)

TURNING UP THE HEAT (U.S. warns El Salvador to control death squads)

FAREWELL GRENADA (Last of U.S. combat forces depart)

REAGAN RIDES HIGH (Poll shows popularity at two-year high)

هبة امين للصناعات

E.C. ministers to debate Europarlament decision

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (E.C.) foreign ministers opened their last session in a year marked by financial troubles with a budget row at the centre of Monday's discussions.

Diplomats said the ministers were due to discuss control of the group's dwindling cash resources after a budget vote last week in the European Parliament went counter to the wishes of the 10 governments.

The assembly's most controversial decision was to freeze a \$640 million budget debate to Britain as an expression of dismay at the collapse of efforts to reform the community at the Athens summit earlier this month.

Britain protested that the action was discriminatory and is demanding that the cash be paid by the end of March.

Diplomats said the 10 governments were divided over reaction to the assembly vote though they all believe it had exceeded its powers.

The ministers were also due to discuss the future status of Greenland, a Danish territory that has opted out of the Common Market.

Diplomats said Denmark was pressing for agreement at Monday's session to contain a rising tide of resentment on the strategic island coast after more than two years of negotiations.

They said accord may be held up by West Germany which has important fishing interests in Greenland waters and was demanding a larger catch than appears acceptable to the Danes.

The ministers were also due to discuss a report from the European Commission on trade relations with Cyprus.

They were also due to meet Spanish and Portuguese ministers over dinner to discuss political cooperation once the two Iberian states join the community.

Korean group to build \$400m plant at Jubail

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) said it signed a contract under which South Korea's Lucky-Goldstar group will build a 1.4 billion riyal (\$400 million) petrochemical plant at Jubail.

The plant, expected to start production by early 1986, will produce 300,000 tonnes a year of mono vinyl chloride and 200,000 tonnes of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) using processes based on technology from B.F. Goodrich Company of the U.S.

Under the agreement, signed in Riyadh Sunday, SABIC will meet 85 per cent of the total cost of the project and the rest will be paid by the Korean group. SABIC said in a statement.

Lucky-Goldstar would also operate and maintain the plant, and buy part of its output for export to South Korea, it added.

SABIC was established in 1976 to set up, operate and market products of basic petrochemical, fertiliser and metallurgical industries.

Banks cut credit lines for foreign borrowers

BASLE (R) — Banks further reduced their credit lines to most foreign borrowers in the first half of 1983, reflecting the international debt crisis and stagnation of world trade, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said Tuesday.

The average length of loans also stretched out further, mainly because banks refused to renew some short-term credits falling due and had to reschedule the debts of countries unable to repay.

The twice-yearly BIS report showed that the amount of credit which the banks of major non-communist industrial nations had pledged to the rest of the world but had not yet paid out fell by \$2.8 billion during the first 6 months of the year.

Total new lending to these countries at \$10 billion was only one-third as much as in the first half of 1982.

Eastern Europe's net indebtedness to the banks fell by a massive \$11.9 billion, or a quarter, between the end of 1981 and mid-1983. But the BIS said the rate at which banks were cutting back their exposure to these countries was slowing.

Worst off was Poland, where a significant volume of maturing short-term loans was not extended during the first half of 1983.

Its unused credit lines fell to 4.3 per cent of its outstanding debt, the worst ratio of all problem countries listed in the BIS statistics.

Most new borrowing by Brazil was for periods longer than 2 years, reflecting the rescheduling of its debt.

Mexico was able to borrow some \$1.3 billion on a short-term basis.

Venezuela and Chile, however, received fewer short-term loans and their undischarged credit also declined.

Tokyo stock market, yen face uncertain period

TOKYO (R) — A recent rally on the Tokyo stock market was cut short Monday by the failure of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to secure a majority in Japan's general election.

Commodities prices were little changed, but the yen dipped sharply against the U.S. dollar, which touched 237.10 yen at one point before closing at 236.25 yen against 235.28 on Friday.

The stock market average, which ended at a record high on Saturday on expectation of an LDP victory, closed 81.47 points lower at 4,484.17 after being 188.54 points down at one stage.

"We had a year-end rally and its head has been cut off," said Mr. Charles Edmond, share analyst for Hoare Govett (Far East). "All the polls were wrong and the market was caught wrong-footed."

Other analysts said the reaction of foreign investors would be the dominant factor in the short term, lasting until about the end of the week. But they thought the market would rebound as the present air of political uncertainty dissipated.

The market, feeding on newspaper predictions, had felt the LDP would easily maintain its majority. Analysts at Sanyo Securities said fewer than 271 seats for the LDP would reflect a loss of confidence in Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

But when computer predictions pointed to only 250 LDP seats, last week's stock price rises were cut back sharply in a wave of domestic selling.

Some foreign selling was seen from Hong Kong and Australia, said Mr. Yoshihide Nakamura of Maruzen Securities, but Japanese brokers were still awaiting reaction from London and the United States.

"This morning Japanese brokers sold on their own account in expectation of foreign selling. But we don't think it will be large," he said.

Analysts said prospects were still bright for the Japanese economy next year, on higher exports and better corporate profitability.

Dealers on the foreign exchange market predicted that the yen's decline would also be temporary.

Mr. Hiroshi Ogai of the treasury department of the Sumitomo Bank said: "As far as the yen is concerned, the impact of political events has usually lasted only about 24 to 48 hours."

In London the U.S. dollar traded well below its record levels of last week on European foreign exchange markets Monday, easing against all major currencies except the Japanese yen.

The yen was quoted at around 236.50 to the dollar, around one yen down from Friday's close, following the LDP setback.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Conflicting planetary positions seem to be operating today and tonight which may determine your mood and self control. You can benefit or have a considerable amount of confusion.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Depending upon how you treat family members, your home can either become a haven of rest or the exact opposite.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your partners are apt to convince you to make some changes, but be sure they also ensure your benefit first. Become wiser.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Listen carefully to others who give you practical ideas. If you want to make an investment, public commodities are suggested. Be clever.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be more objective than usual to gain personal wishes. The evening should be spent with individuals you admire.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Ideal day to get together with advisors and get your affairs in order. Get some important Christmas shopping done.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Act quickly on gaining those wishes that mean a lot to you. Attend a family gathering and have a good time. Bring along gifts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get busy at career affairs but add something special so that you can become more prosperous. Be sure of yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Widen your horizons and contact those persons who can help you to make greater progress. Get more backing on your good ideas.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Find a better way of dealing with persons in business. Do something that will please your mate. Be happier.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Listen to your partner's suggestions. Take time for shopping; stay within your budget; don't drop any packages, and count your money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get your work done efficiently and cleverly. Get your finest talents working. Be co-operative with co-workers. Rest up tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Romance can make your mate much happier. Set up appointments for the evening's entertainment early, and have lots of fun together.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be someone who will be a fine family man or woman. One who would do well in business so slant the education along such lines. Teach finances early. Give as many cultural advantages as you can.

... "The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices were mixed Monday with small selective demand making for a firmer bias and at 1500 the F.T. index was up 1.7 at 761.0 having traded at a new peak of 761.7 at noon. Trading interest was quiet due to seasonal influences, dealers said.

Bowater was 10p higher at 255 after favourable press comment over the weekend. Dealers added. Grand Met firmed 4p to 345 while Hawker, T.I. group, Vickers, Glaxo and BTR all gained 2p apiece. ICI, however, fell 2p to 646.

Government bonds held early gains of around 1/2 point in line with the steeper trend in sterling.

Midland trust firmed 65p to 200 following agreed bid terms from Britannic Assurance which lost 4p to 450.

House of Fraser ended 4p higher at 230, having opened that much down at 222 in reaction to the weekend car bomb explosion outside its Harrods department store in London.

Banks were mostly firmer with Bank of Scotland 11p up at 685. Nat West 3p higher at 642 but Midland fell 5p to 379. In mixed insurance Eagle Star was 12p firmer at 731 after 736.

Oils were mostly easier but Harthouse Petroleum at 113 was 6p higher. Gold shares firmed with Bullion and U.S. shares were mixed.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4187/97	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2500/03	Canadian dollars
	2.7675/85	West German marks
	3.1060/70	Dutch guilders
	2.2085/2100	Swiss francs
	56.33/38	Belgian francs
	8.4400/50	French francs
	1677.25/1678.25	Italian lire
	236.10/20	Japanese yen
	8.1170/1200	Swedish crowns
	7.7970/8000	Norwegian crowns
	10.0270/0300	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	376.60/377.10	U.S. dollars

Israel's farmers face economic woes

TEL AVIV (R) — Once hailed by the Israelis for making the desert bloom, Israel's farmers today find themselves under economic siege in Israel and abroad.

The value of Israeli agricultural produce has declined by about 14 per cent over the last 3 years and officials cannot see a marked improvement in the near future.

Like other exporters, farmers have been seriously hit by the Likud government's controversial economic policies and their profits may dip further because of increased competition from nations newly entering the European Community.

Also this season they have been plagued by a dry winter which is threatening crops and a dock workers' protest that has jeopardised the shipment of produce during the profitable Christmas season in Europe.

Israeli agriculture officials say the slowdown has so far cost Israel \$5 to \$7 million and the government has had to pay for air-freighting fruit and vegetables which are normally shipped.

About 800 tons of rotting produce has also had to be destroyed because of the dispute, although the dockers have partially lifted their sanctions to load some produce in time for Christmas.

After developing a reputation for innovative techniques that bring high crop yields and hardy new strains, Israeli farmers now face tough challenges in selling their fruit and vegetables.

"Our ability to market our crops has not kept up with our ability to produce. The market abroad isn't growing but the competition is," said Mr. Shmuel Cohen, an agriculture ministry official.

In particular, Israel is concerned that the entry of Spain and Portugal into the European Community will sharply cut into its markets, which are almost exclusively in Western Europe.

Already the entry of Greece has had an impact on Israeli exports, according to officials. But they are more concerned about competition from Spanish farmers who have begun to plant large numbers of citrus and avocado groves for when Madrid joins the community.

Israeli officials have sought promises from the community, so far unsuccessfully, that Israel will get the same trade advantages as Spain.

But Israeli farmers are conscious that agriculture plays a decreasing role in the country's economy.

When the state was created in 1948, fresh produce accounted for most exports but today it represents only about 12 per cent of exports, worth some \$600 million a year.

Even the collective kibbutz farm settlements that formed the vanguard of the fledgling Jewish state today depend on industrial production for most of their income.

The thick-skinned Jaffa orange that was once a "symbol of Israel" is also going by the way side as farmers have turned to more profitable avocados, persimmons, strawberries and melons. And a processed-food industry which now brings in an additional \$220 million a year is another threat.

Farmers have been seriously affected by the government's economic policies.

While inflation soared to 131.5 per cent last year, the shekel was devalued at a far lower rate against European currencies.

At a time when farmers faced spiralling water, fertiliser, labour and shipping costs, profits earned in foreign currency bought them proportionally fewer shekels.

Several semi-collective farm settlements, in debt for years, declared bankruptcy.

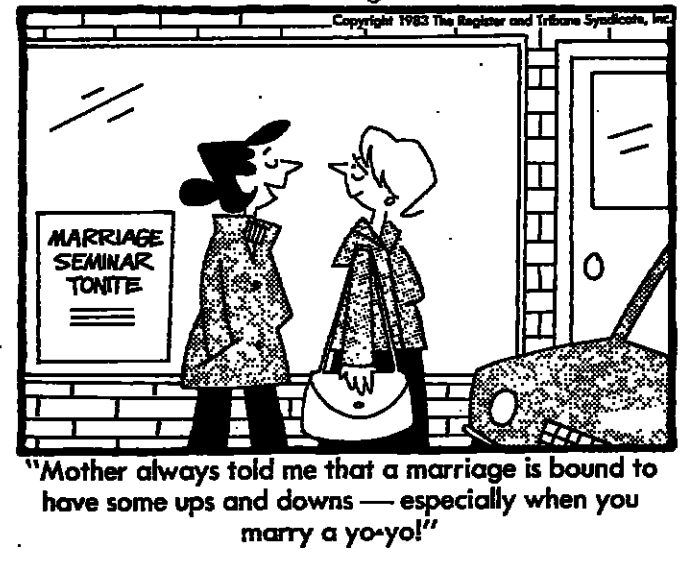
They received little sympathy from the Likud government which has sought to promote free enterprise and industry.

Despite their difficulties, many want to continue farming.

But the Likud government, which has few supporters among Israel's largely socialist oriented kibbutz members "millionaires," arousing deep resentment among farmers who viewed any prosperity as evidence of their hard work.

THE BETTER HALF.

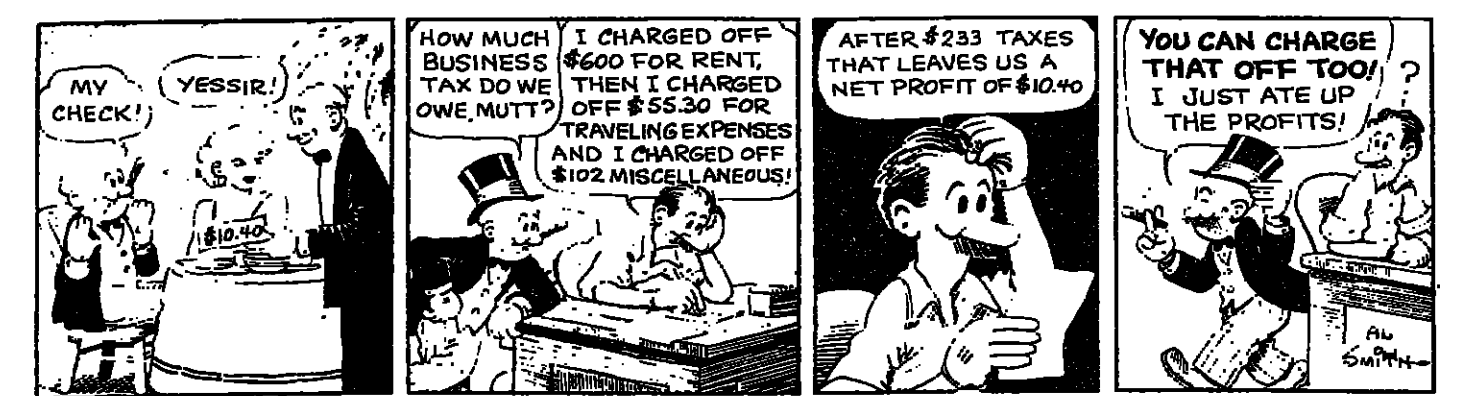
By Harris



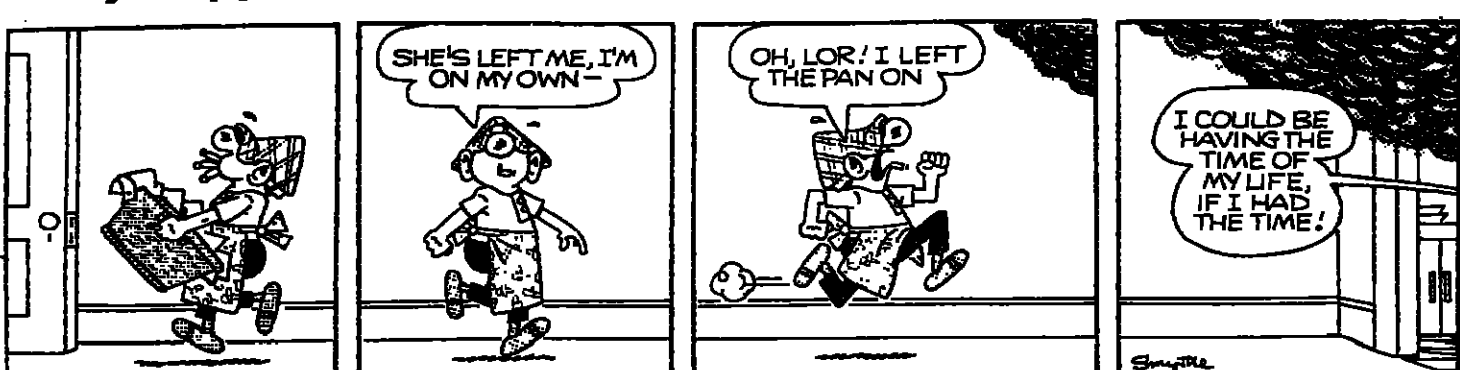
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



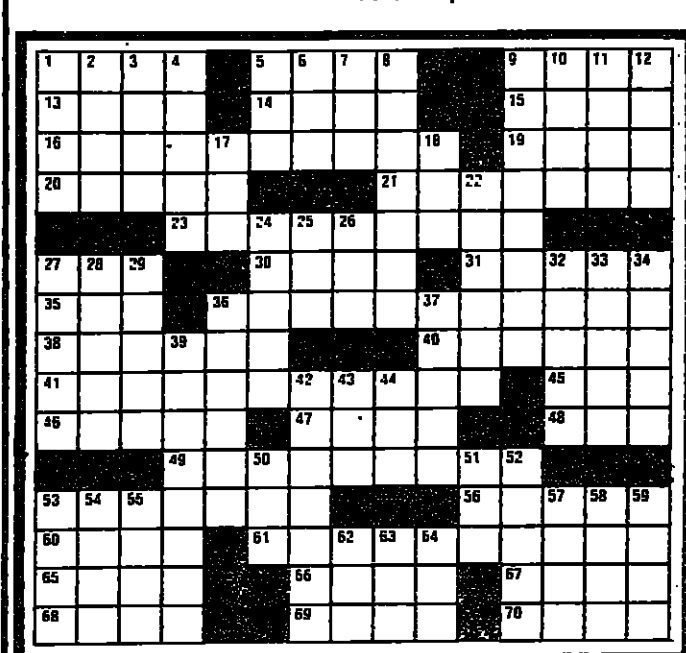
Answer here: A HERESAMONG (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PECAN CURVE ATOMIC ORPHAN
Answer: He was so broke that all the pickpocket got from him was this — PRACTICE

THE Daily Crossword

by Jo E. Lundy

ACROSS	30 River	53 Hoaxed	26 Religious
1 Ponder	31 Islands	56 "A house is not —"	27 Sample
5 Renee's state	32 ingredient	60 Psyches	food
9 Jogger's pace	35 Vigoda	61 Vegetable	28 "Life is just — of cherries"
13 Samoan capital	36 identical	65 Acorns collectively	29 Muslim
14 Tie down	38 "— and yet so far"	66 Lacrates	spirit
15 Wander	40 inability	67 Fan dancer	32 — Do Valera
16 Matched pair	41 words	68 Roman date	33 Old Testament
19 Fruit	42 Doubles	69 Meanly	34 Alliance
20 drinks	45 Mel of baseball	criticize	letters
21 Secret	46 Put into	70 Maneuver	36 Sewed
22 Makes light, as dough	47 QED word	1 Republic	37 Author Bret
23 Appearance	48 Modern: prof.	2 Over	38 Cakes
27 Child's game	49 Copy-cats	3 Big cat	43 — la la
		4 Huron, Erie etc.	50 Get-up-and-go
		5 Building	51 Hurried
		6 Siamese	52 Clever
		7 Inquire	53 — tasse
		8 "— Leaf"	54 Mild oath
		(O. Henry)	55 Fail
		9 Cross over	57 Iridescent
		10 Traveled	gem
		11 Stove part	58 Leads gram
		12 Trueheart	or lilt
		17 Have being	59 Swirling
		18 Japanese coin	water
		22 Gateway	62 Feel sick
		24 Polynesian	63 Health resort
		25 Small part	64 Doctrine



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Shoppers queue at Harrods despite bomb

LONDON (R) — Christmas shoppers queued at Harrods when Britain's most famous store opened for business after a weekend car bomb killed five people in street outside.

Harrods is going forward to Christmas as usual, said the store's managing director Alec Craddock, surveying a queue of 60 people at the door.

There was no sign that shoppers had been frightened away by the bomb attack on Saturday by Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas.

But the scars of the bombing were still plainly visible, with gaping blackened holes in the windows along one side of the store. On upper floors not a pane of glass remained.

Home Secretary Leon Brittan said after the bomb blast that it would give the IRA the victory it wanted if people "stopped shopping and hid at home."

Extra police were patrolling the busy shopping streets of central London Monday, fearing the IRA might be planning more attacks in a pre-Christmas bomb blitz in the

British capital. In parliament later Mr. Brittan was expected to announce mass police reinforcements for central London to try to make the streets safer.

Two of the five dead were young police officers. Nineteen of the 91 people injured in the blast were still in hospital Monday.

The attack provoked outrage in Britain and calls for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government to ban Sinn Fein, political wing of the outlawed IRA.

Sinn Fein has been gaining electoral support in British-ruled Northern Ireland in the last 12 months and has won seats in the British Parliament but not taken them up.

The IRA said Sunday night its army council had not authorised the weekend attack and expressed regret for civilian casualties. But

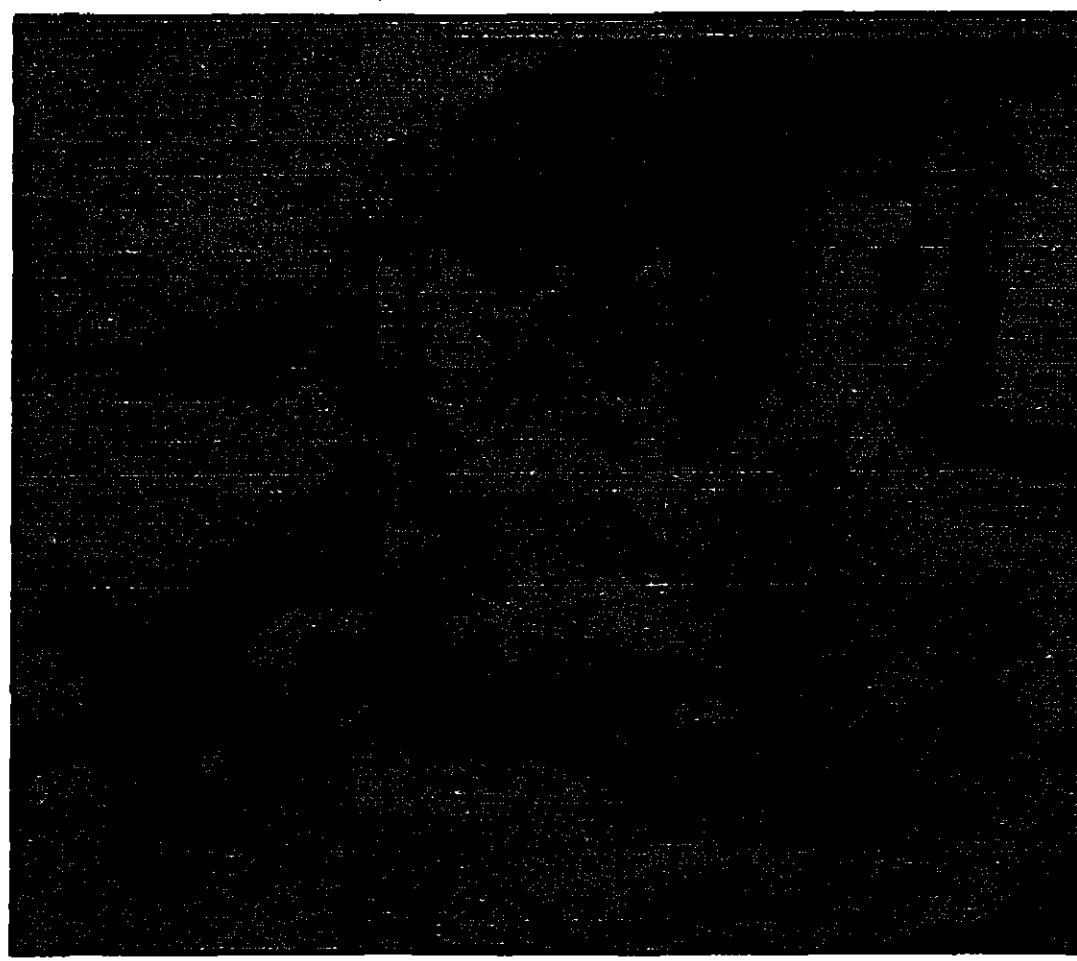
Police dismissed the IRA apology as contemptible.

The IRA promised not to repeat a similar operation. But it claimed police had an ample 40-minute warning to clear the area in London's fashionable Knightsbridge and said it would still fight to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Scotland Yard police headquarters said the telephoned warning to a charity group maliciously misled security forces by giving false locations. "It was an invitation to death," police said.

Detectives said Saturday's bomb outside Harrods was detonated by a timing device, not by remote control as first thought, and contained up to 14 kgs of explosives.

Police have raided several houses in and around London known to have Irish Republican connections. "There are hundreds of lines of inquiry being pursued, some of which are very promising," said Commander William Huckleby, head of the anti-terrorist squad.



A police official outside Harrods department store in London examines the remains of a vehicle which contained a bomb that exploded there Saturday, killing five people and injuring over 90. Police attributed the bomb to the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA). (A.P. wirephoto)

Spain's Communist Party leader sets out to unite divided members

MADRID (R) — Spain's Communist Party leader Gerardo Iglesias Monday faced the daunting task of rebuilding his party's strength and unity after a national congress which exposed it as weak and divided.

Mr. Iglesias, 38, was re-elected secretary general of the party Sunday night at the end of the five-day congress in which he faced an open challenge to his leadership from hardliners.

Some of his opponents had even threatened to quit the party if the congress did not oust Mr. Iglesias, a moderate who stands for pragmatic policies based on European independence from Moscow.

With this threat clearly in mind, Mr. Iglesias appealed for unity after winning by 69 votes to 31.

"We leave here with a firm dedication to unity among all communists, a unity of diverse opinions but a unity," he said.

"We need a big push, we need the recovery of the Spanish Communist Party," Mr. Iglesias added. The election result marked a setback for ex-party leader Santiago Carrillo who led the campaign to oust Mr. Iglesias. But the two adversaries embraced after the results were announced.

Mr. Carrillo handed the leadership over to Mr. Iglesias in November last year following the party's rout in general elections that brought the socialists to power. He was widely blamed for the defeat in which the party lost more than one million votes.

Within weeks of the changeover, Mr. Carrillo had turned

against his protegee accusing him of practising right-wing social democracy and betraying Marxism.

Mr. Iglesias accused Mr. Carrillo of acting out of spite and refusing to take his orders.

The battle between the two men came into the open at the congress which was marked by some of the most abusive and heated debate that militants could recall.

The contest between the two rivals was so close that only 12 votes separated them in their election to the new central committee. Mr. Iglesias got 413 votes while Carrillo polled 401.

Mr. Carrillo said after Mr. Iglesias' re-election he would respect a congress resolution for unity within the party but would continue to defend his own opinions.

Filipino army chief says new group plans trouble

MANILA (R) — The Philippines army commander said Monday a group of priests, businessmen and opposition politicians planned to create trouble as part of a campaign to boycott parliamentary elections scheduled for next May.

Armed forces chief of staff Gen. Fabian Ver said the group, a "clergy-bourgeoisie clique," was bent on overthrowing the government.

The new group may be receiving foreign support and could very well have arms stashed in secret cache, said Gen. Ver in a report to President Ferdinand Marcos, who was in his mountain resort in Baguio in the northern Philippines.

Mr. Marcos told reporters Sunday that a plot by the group to overthrow the government was revealed by documents seized from communist rebels. The communist called the new group a "strange grouping of the oligarchy and the clergy," he added.

According to the presidential palace, Gen. Ver said the new group could also be serving as another front for the opposition and they planned "to accelerate ac-

tivities and stir up trouble before the parliamentary elections in May to strengthen a boycott campaign of the polls."

Gen. Ver did not say who might be leading the "clergy-bourgeoisie clique" and said he could not reveal its strength. But he said they might be connected with an underground social democratic party.

Gen. Ver, former chief of a military battalion guarding the president, said he was surprised at what he called a "deafening silence" from the communist New People's Army (NPA), which has been fighting the government for more than 10 years.

"Aside from sporadic actions in a few scattered fronts, the NPA have been inactive ... but the silence could be a deceiving lull before the storm," he said.

But he said an emerging faction of the Muslim secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) could be "more dangerous and more motivated" than rebels headed by long-time leader Nur Misuari, now believed to be living in exile in the Middle East.

French left wards off poll challenge

PARIS (R) — The French left ward off a strong challenge from the opposition in a parliamentary by-election this weekend by joining forces behind centre-left candidate Bernard Charles in the southwestern region of Lot.

Mr. Charles, representing the Mouvement Radical de Gauche (MRG), won the run-off poll with 52.44 per cent of the votes. Mr. Charles will fill the seat left vacant by veteran MRG politician Maurice Faure, recently elected to the senate, confirming his party's traditional hold over the region.

Opposition candidate Andre Carle led in last week's first round election as support for the left split between the MRG and the ruling socialist and communist parties.

The socialists and communists decided to back Charles after their candidates scored 16.06 and 12.64 per cent respectively.

Dynamic Nakasone's political future in doubt after setback

TOKYO (R) — A question mark dangled over the political future of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Monday after his party's dismal general election performance.

Japanese voters delivered a sharp rebuke to his brief administration, forcing the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to seek support from independents to retain its grip on government.

His two-year term as party leader does not come up for reelection until next November. But Mr. Nakasone may come under pressure from sections of the party to resign to take responsibility for the debacle. In his first post-election comment, Mr. Nakasone indicated he planned to stay on.

Mr. Nakasone's poor election showing also appeared to have jeopardised his freedom of action to pursue his staunchly pro-Western policies and push ahead with his plans for a cautious build-up of Japan's defence forces.

He may also find it difficult to fulfil promises to President Reagan and other Western leaders that Japan will press on with moves to open its market to more imports to lessen trade friction.

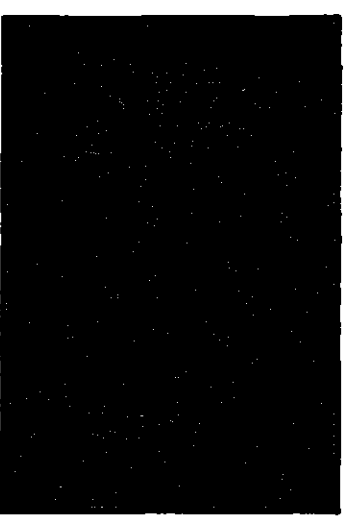
In his first year, Mr. Nakasone made his mark as one of Japan's most dynamic and controversial post-war prime ministers.

He imposed a fresh and forceful style of leadership on a nation still coming to terms with its standing as the second most powerful economy in the free world.

Mr. Nakasone's first year was notable for his efforts to give Japan a stronger voice on the international stage and place it more squarely in the Western camp.

"Before I was prime minister, Japan was knocked around by other countries, but now the voice of Japan has been raised," he boasted to voters ahead of the election.

Such frank and forthright statements have become a hallmark of the Nakasone style.



Yasuhiro Nakasone

This has marked him out from most of his predecessors, who preferred more obscure language to avoid controversy in a country which places great emphasis on group harmony.

But some domestic critics, including sections of the press, charged that his eloquence was too often a substitute for action.

An unabashed nationalist throughout his political career, Mr. Nakasone landed in hot water for statements suggesting that Japan throw off the constitution imposed by the Americans after the war and write up its own.

Critics claimed that his real intention was to eliminate the present constitutional restrictions limiting the size and role of the defence force.

Mr. Nakasone, a former defence minister, has been a long time advocate of a strengthened military for defence purposes and has pressed his view that Japan's security also depends on maintaining strong ties with the United States.

The United States has 49,000 army, air force and naval forces in Japan under a joint security treaty which places Japan under the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

Mr. Nakasone moved to eli-

minate irritants to the U.S. relationship by trying to tackle long-standing trade problems and agreeing to American requests to share Japan's advanced military technology. The technology transfer is the single exception to Japan's ban on the export of military equipment.

Under pressure of public opinion, Mr. Nakasone was forced to tone down his remarks on defence but is still considered the most hawkish prime minister since the war.

"Unsinkable aircraft carrier"

His single most memorable statement on the subject was his quoted remark in a newspaper interview during a visit to Washington last January that Japan should be like an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" to deter attack from the Soviet Union.

The remark produced an outcry in the Japanese press and from Mr. Nakasone's domestic critics. Officials later said the translation of Mr. Nakasone's remark from the original Japanese had overstated the point.

Though in recent statements on defence, Mr. Nakasone has equivocated on exactly where he stands, he has continued to remind the Japanese that the Soviet Union maintains huge military bases just to Japan's north.

He also pointed out that Moscow refuses to give up four Japanese islands occupied by the Soviet Union since World War II and used the example of the shooting down of the Korean airliner last September to draw attention to the Soviet threat.

On the domestic front, Mr. Nakasone has promised to pursue measures to reduce the waste and cost of running Japan's huge bureaucracy.

He also committed to introducing further cuts in income tax but would almost certainly have to raise indirect taxes early in his new term to cover the lost revenue.

'Andropov has less than 2 years to live'

NEW YORK (R) — Soviet doctors have given ailing President Yuri Andropov less than two years to live, Newsweek magazine reported.

Quoting a knowledgeable Soviet medical source, the magazine said the 69-year-old Soviet leader is suffering from a degenerative kidney disease that has responded to treatment.

But Mr. Andropov's life expectancy is now only 18 months to two years, the report said.

Mr. Andropov, who has not been seen in public for four months, was being treated in a special sanatorium for members of the Communist Party central committee on the outskirts of Moscow, Newsweek said.

The magazine said doctors did not want Mr. Andropov to return to his duties but hoped he would be able to attend the scheduled Dec. 28 meeting of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament).

5 South Koreans arrested for spying

SEOUL (R) — Five South Koreans have been arrested on charges of spying for North Korea and trying to topple the Seoul government, it was announced Monday.

The agency for National Security Planning (NSP) said the five had passed information to the North on movements of politicians and military officers and exercises, facilities and other details of South Korean forces. They were identified as businessmen Yoo Jae-Song and Kim Sang-Won, day-labourer Chung Yong-farmer Chung Jin-Yong and his wife Hwang Jong Im.

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Australian secret service chief resigns

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's secret service chief has resigned following a bungled mock raid on a five-star hotel, a foreign affairs ministry spokesman said Monday.

The spokesman gave no reason for John Ryan's resignation but the abortive exercise on Nov. 31 caused an uproar. The hotel, the Sheraton in Melbourne, has sued the government and the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) for damages.

Masked men menaced hotel staff with sub-machine guns and smashed down two doors with sledgehammers in the exercise.

Foreign Minister Bill Hayden told Parliament that the mock raid was masterminded by 12 men and was conducted by a recently established ASIS unit.

Mr. Hayden said the exercise was nasty and intolerable and was carried out without his authority. Mr. Ryan came under fire in Parliament after the raid when a government senator called him "a crook, a bully, a liar, a drunk and a social embarrassment."

At least 27 hurt in MAS airline crash

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — At least 27 passengers were injured when a Malaysian Airline System (MAS) plane crash-landed and caught fire Sunday night, officials said Monday.

The plane, an Airbus carrying 200 passengers, overshot the runway while landing in bad weather at Subang International Airport, about 25 kilometres from Kuala Lumpur, the director general of civil aviation, Dr. Kuddus Ahmad, told the national news agency Bernama.

At least 10 people were admitted to hospital. Some of the passengers said the twin-engine airliner ran into a swamp and there was an explosion after the tail caught fire.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠85 ♥AK862 ♦Q875 ♣65

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

2 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AKQ872 ♥6 ♦K1093 ♣52

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

2 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AKQ872 ♥6 ♦K1093 ♣52

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♣ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AJ9762 ♥7 ♦854 ♣942

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 NT Pass 2 ♥ Pass

3 ♥ Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q87652 ♥J10 ♦AKQ6 ♣7

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

3 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?